

# MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

---

## OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2001-02 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2002-03 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
<b>Department of Education and Training</b>			
Total Expenses .....	7,191.9	7,616.9	5.9
Asset Acquisitions .....	357.5	417.0	16.6
<b>Office of the Board of Studies</b>			
Total Expenses .....	82.7	89.8	8.6
Asset Acquisitions .....	0.9	2.8	211.1
<b>Total, Minister for Education and Training</b>			
Total Expenses .....	<b>7,274.6</b>	<b>7,706.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Asset Acquisitions .....	<b>358.4</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Department of Education and Training provides quality general schooling and vocational education and training services to over 1.6 million students each year through an extensive network of Government schools, TAFE campuses and adult and community evening colleges. The Department also provides assistance to non-government schools and funds specialist training, employment and youth programs.

The Department formulates and co-ordinates education and training policy and plans and allocates resources across the State-funded sectors of schools, TAFE NSW and vocational education and training providers.

The key priorities in education and training for 2002-03 will be to:

- ◆ enhance technology based learning in schools and TAFE, through improved internet and e-learning facilities, supported by the upgrade of network bandwidth;
- ◆ introduce initiatives to enhance the quality of teaching in Government schools and ensure an adequate supply of teachers in key learning areas across the State;

- ◆ provide additional targeted funding to schools to assist in meeting locally identified needs;
- ◆ undertake a trial program 'priority action schools', to provide intensive support for specifically targeted primary, high and central schools, designed to improve educational outcomes;
- ◆ introduce a pilot of reduced class sizes in designated schools, for Kindergarten to Year 3, to be independently monitored and evaluated;
- ◆ continue the program of capital works through the Schools Improvement package; and
- ◆ provide quality employment-related training through schools, TAFE NSW and adult and community colleges.

In 2002-03 over 757,000 students will attend New South Wales Government schools. TAFE enrolments in 2002-03 are projected to be more than 500,000, whilst Adult and Community Education student numbers are likely to exceed 400,000 in 2003.

## ***SCHOOL EDUCATION SERVICES***

### **EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The Department has a legislative responsibility to provide education services to public school students of New South Wales. This encompasses core, equity and strategic education services for both primary and secondary education. These services reflect general education provision, as well as services that address the needs of a range of identified equity groups.

Expenses on Government pre-school, primary and secondary education programs are estimated at \$5,585.8 million in 2002-03, an increase of \$313.3 million on 2001-02.

The Non-Government Schools Assistance program provides financial support of \$542.9 million to non-Government schools.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### **Literacy and Numeracy**

Funding of over \$498 million will be provided over the next four years for the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

New South Wales students are among the top performers in primary reading and numeracy in Australia and are above the national average in the proportion of students achieving the national benchmarks in reading and numeracy for Years 3 and 5.

New South Wales leads Australia in setting standards for literacy and numeracy and in monitoring student progress. Measuring and monitoring student achievement is a critical component of the State's Literacy and Numeracy Plan. Monitoring of progress occurs at Years 3 and 5 through the Basic Skill Tests and at Year 7 through the English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

Other programs include Reading Recovery, the Early Literacy and Numeracy Initiative and Count Me In Too. A Literacy and Numeracy Follow-up program has been introduced from 2002 to assist teachers to identify students at risk of not achieving basic literacy and numeracy standards in Years 3 to 6.

### **Technology**

Technological development has resulted in widespread change in the way students in schools can learn. Access to computers, coupled with innovative educational programs that make use of technology, will provide students with exciting opportunities to personalise their education. With teacher support, students will be able to tailor their programs of study, gain access to a range of rich digital learning resources, and collaborate with experts in order to meet their individual learning requirements.

Nearly \$823 million will be provided over the next four years for technology initiatives, including:

- ◆ \$566.5 million for continuation of the Computers in Schools Program.
- ◆ \$157 million to provide for the progressive upgrade of bandwidth in schools and TAFE colleges, using available technology including government owned infrastructure and a range of telecommunications carriers;

- ◆ \$82.3 million for e-learning accounts for staff and students in schools and TAFE. This project will provide e-mail accounts to teachers and students, filtered access to the internet, discussion forums and web hosting facilities to all schools and colleges. Remote access will also be available from locations such as home or libraries; and
- ◆ \$17.1 million for continuation of the Technology in Learning and Teacher Training Program to provide teacher training in the use of the latest computer technology.

A further \$140 million will be available through the Asset Acquisition Program over the next three years to support these key initiatives, particularly the expansion of network bandwidth.

### **Vocational Education and Training in Schools**

Under the Ready for Work Plan, there are increasing opportunities for secondary students to undertake vocational training to strengthen their employment prospects when their schooling is completed. Initiatives include:

- ◆ some \$21.6 million over four years, for individual School to Work Plans for students in Years 9 to 12 to help them direct their study and career paths;
- ◆ an expanded work education program to improve the knowledge of young people on how to get a job, where the jobs are and the personal qualities and other skills needed to succeed;
- ◆ accredited industry-based courses as part of the New Higher School Certificate, which count towards university entrance;
- ◆ over \$11.6 million over four years for scholarships to encourage school students to continue their studies full-time at TAFE NSW;
- ◆ almost \$7.3 million over four years to expand programs for young people at risk; and
- ◆ stronger links between schools, TAFE NSW and employers.

## 2002-03 BUDGET

### Total Expenses

Total expenses on school education services for 2002-03 are estimated at \$6,128.8 million. This represents an increase of almost \$357.5 million, or some 6.2 percent on last year's budget. Key initiatives include:

- ◆ nearly \$500 million over four years for the further expansion of the State Literacy and Numeracy Plan with over \$124 million to be spent in 2002-03;
- ◆ \$823 million over four years for technology initiatives, including \$157 million to upgrade bandwidth in schools and TAFE colleges, \$82.3 million for the provision of e-mail and a range of other e-services for students and teachers in schools and TAFE colleges and over \$566 million for continuation of the Computers in Schools Program;
- ◆ \$88.5 million extra over the next four years for initiatives to enhance the quality of teachers and to ensure an adequate supply of teachers in key learning areas;
- ◆ an additional \$40 million over four years for targeted assistance to schools to meet locally identified needs;
- ◆ an additional \$10 million over the next two years to undertake a trial program 'priority action schools', to provide intensive support for specifically targeted primary, high and central schools, designed to improve educational outcomes and to introduce a pilot of reduced class sizes in designated schools, for Kindergarten to Year 3, to be independently monitored and evaluated;
- ◆ \$47.5 million over the next four years to provide a wider range of placement and support options for students with disruptive behaviour; and
- ◆ a school maintenance program in the order of \$600 million over the next four years. Some \$179 million will be spent in 2002-03 to maintain public schools.

### Asset Acquisitions

The school education component of the asset acquisition program provides for the construction of new and replacement schools and upgrading of and additions to existing facilities. The cost of sites for new schools, furniture and equipment and the capital cost of major computer projects are also funded under this program.

In 2002-03 \$300 million will be available for spending on capital projects at schools, an increase of \$42.4 million (16.5 percent) on last year's allocation. The allocation is part of the \$1.1 billion Schools Improvement package, announced last year, which will see a significant upgrade in the amenity of New South Wales public schools and deliver improved facilities for students, teachers and the community, including:

- ◆ more than 30 new primary and high schools;
- ◆ improvements to facilities for students, teachers and school staff, including upgrades to classrooms, libraries and administrative facilities, as well as better disabled access and school security; and
- ◆ funding for landscaping, fencing and general improvements at older schools.

This year's program will provide for commencement of 41 major new works projects, at an estimated total cost of \$140 million, including various upgradings, replacement of demountable classrooms with permanent facilities, libraries, school halls and gymnasiums. In addition there will be major enhancements in information technology infrastructure, with a total value of \$100 million, including network bandwidth in schools and TAFE colleges as part of the Government's strategy of improving internet services and e-learning opportunities. As part of this, \$4 million will be spent on standardizing and linking all education and training websites through a single portal to provide students, teachers and staff customized access to relevant electronic services.

Work will continue on nearly 60 major projects commenced in previous years, including new or replacement primary schools at Bogangar, Cecil Hills, Flinders, Glenwood Park, Prestons and Rouse Hill and high schools at Kellyville, Mt Annan, the Great Lakes College at Tuncurry and upgrading the junior and senior campuses at Chifley College in western Sydney.

A total of \$87 million will also be available for a wide range of minor miscellaneous works projects, including air-conditioning in schools and demountable classrooms and the upgrading of student and teacher facilities.

The government has also sought proposals from the private sector to undertake, under a Privately Financed Project (PFP) arrangement, the financing, delivery and maintenance of nine new schools in urban release areas of New South Wales.

Key objectives require that the Project can be delivered at a cost and quality that demonstrates 'value for money', the Project will be consistent with a range of 'public interest' criteria and that the project meets the government's priorities for education and improves educational outcomes. Detailed proposals were submitted on 21 May and are currently the subject of evaluation.

Provision has also been made for some works as part of the proposed revitalisation of schools in the inner Sydney area.

## **TAFE AND RELATED SERVICES**

### **EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

TAFE NSW is the largest supplier of workforce training in Australia at a time of significant structural and technological changes in business, industry and government enterprises. TAFE NSW has an on-going commitment to develop and implement a range of strategies to ensure courses are responsive to industry needs, provide more flexible delivery options including workplace learning and promote new educational technologies.

TAFE NSW is meeting increasing demand for its programs and services. The changing skill requirements resulting from the need for New South Wales businesses to be competitive in the global economy and emerging skill needs of industries such as biotechnology are increasing the demands on TAFE NSW to provide relevant programs to support these developments.

TAFE NSW has a particular responsibility to assist with the economic development of regional communities. Access to an appropriately skilled workforce in regional areas is essential if those areas are to attract and retain industry. TAFE Institutes will continue to offer a range of programs of study despite relatively small populations in some areas.

TAFE NSW has a strong commitment to quality. By mid 2001 all TAFE Institutes were externally validated as Quality Endorsed Training Organisations (QETO) by the NSW Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board.

Total expenses on TAFE and related services are estimated at \$1,488.2 million in 2002-03. New South Wales has committed additional funding to match growth funding available under the 2001 Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) Agreement.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

The strategic directions for TAFE NSW for 2002 to 2004 are to:

- ◆ grow the business of TAFE NSW for its customers;
- ◆ drive the integration of skill formation in social and economic development;
- ◆ empower TAFE students and teachers to excel;
- ◆ innovate to improve TAFE products and services; and
- ◆ be acclaimed for quality.

## **2002-03 BUDGET**

### **Total Expenses**

Total expenses on TAFE and related services for 2002-03 are estimated at \$1,488.2 million. Major initiatives to be undertaken during 2002-03 include nearly \$20 million over four years to support TAFE scholarships and students at risk programs, with some \$4.7 million available this year as follows:

- ◆ \$1.8 million for a joint TAFE and schools initiative to target youth and expand their access to vocational education and training. TAFE NSW will provide an additional 100 places for students in Juvenile Centres specific to meet the needs of the students; and
- ◆ \$2.9 million to assist students from rural and low socio-economic areas who have successfully completed vocational education training courses as part of the Higher School Certificate to continue full-time study at TAFE NSW.

TAFE will continue development of partnerships with industry to deliver flexible training programs specific to client needs and at times and locations suitable to the client. Key partnerships include the Toyota Motor Company of Australia, Baker's Delight, The Wrigley Company, Penrith City Council, Murrumbidgee Dairy Products and the Master Builders Association of NSW.

### **Asset Acquisitions**

The asset acquisition program for 2002-03 is \$72 million. The program provides for commencement of 27 new projects, including new facilities at Albury, Cootamundra, Shellharbour and Wyong.

Construction will continue on major works at Bathurst, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Liverpool, Miller, Taree, Ultimo and Wollongbar campuses and on the Great Lakes College, Tuncurry, which is a joint schools and TAFE NSW facility. Work will also continue on the Business Training Centre at the Freshwater campus of the Northern Beaches Secondary College.

## **OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES**

The Office of the Board of Studies provides professional and administrative support to the Minister and the Board of Studies for their respective functions under *The Education Act 1990*. This includes the development of syllabuses and curriculum support materials for all schools from Kindergarten to Year 12, registration and accreditation of non-Government schools, the administration of the home schooling program, and the development and conduct of the School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations. The Office of the Board of Studies also encompasses the Australian Music Examinations Board (New South Wales) and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

## **EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

In 2001-02 the Office's key activities involved:

- ◆ evaluating and revising Years 7-10 syllabuses;
- ◆ developing and trialling of the Computing Skills Assessment for Year 10 students;
- ◆ additional support materials to assist teachers and students with the New Higher School Certificate;
- ◆ implementing the inaugural New Higher School Certificate examinations in 2001 and undertaking state-wide testing for the New School Certificate; and
- ◆ enhancing on-line links with schools to allow the exchange of student information and candidate results data.

## **New Higher School Certificate**

The Office of the Board of Studies and the Department of Education and Training have spent over \$30 million since 1997-98 to support reform of the Higher School and School Certificates. Further funding is available for the development of the next stage of support materials to assist teachers and students with the standards-referenced assessment methodology for the New Higher School Certificate.

The New Higher School Certificate 'standards packages', distributed to schools from April 2002 in CD ROM format, builds on and extends the support provided to teachers and students by the New Higher School Certificate syllabus packages.

The Board of Studies considered the report of the independent review of the 2001 Higher School Certificate conducted by Geoff Masters on 9 April 2002. The report's recommendations were endorsed. The Office has developed action plans that will support the implementation of the recommendations.

## **Kindergarten to Year 10 Curriculum Framework**

During 2001-02 the Office finalised the development of a Kindergarten to Year 10 Curriculum Framework. The Framework takes into account current and emerging issues in relation to the delivery of curriculum within schools, particularly the use of information and communications technology in the classroom and its impact on learning and assessment.

## **Computing Skills Assessment for Year 10 Students**

A total of \$3.9 million in recurrent and capital funds was allocated for the introduction of the state-wide external Computing Skills Assessment for all Year 10 students to determine their level of computing competency. The test will be available for all schools throughout the State from 2003.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### **Syllabus Development**

The Government has allocated over \$27 million to the Office of the Board of Studies and the Department of Education and Training for the evaluation and re-development of Years 7-10 syllabuses within a standards framework. In 2003, the Office will have completed the development of a standards-based continuum of learning for students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

## **Information and Communications Technology**

The 2002-03 Budget includes \$4.2 million to fund the introduction of new information and communications technology to assist the development of new syllabuses and support materials, on-line services and support for schools, a trial of computing skills assessments and further development in the broader use of computers in examinations.

## **2002-03 BUDGET**

### **Total Expenses**

Total expenses for 2002-03 are estimated at \$89.8 million, an increase of \$7.1 million on 2001-02. Key expenditure initiatives in 2002-03 include:

- ◆ further revision of the Years 7-10 syllabuses, \$7.0 million for Years 7 - 10 English and Mathematics syllabuses and the review and re-development of the remaining Years 7 to 10 syllabuses;
- ◆ the Computing Skills Assessment for Year 10 students, \$0.6 million to support the further development and trialling of assessment of the computing skills of Year 10 students;
- ◆ additional funding of Vocational Education Training (VET) frameworks, \$1.1 million over 4 years (\$400,000 in 2002-03) to support the maintenance and revision of existing frameworks and the development of new frameworks; and
- ◆ extension of On-line Testing Development and Trialling, \$720,000 over 2 years (\$250,000 in 2002-03 and \$470,000 in 2003-04) to allow the review, development and small scale trial of on-line testing for appropriate HSC and SC courses;

### **Asset Acquisitions**

An amount of \$2.8 million will be available for asset acquisition. This includes \$2 million for the replacement and upgrade of the computer equipment that supports the Higher School and School Certificate examinations programs and \$800,000 for the development of computer systems to support the Computing Skills Assessment testing, on-line service delivery to schools and for syllabus redevelopment.