

STRONG ECONOMY. STRONG COMMUNITIES.



Education fact sheet

Learning for life

The State Government is committed to providing quality education for all Tasmanians, facilitating lifelong learning opportunities and ensuring high-quality training options.

The Government continues to invest in education and training. Additional funding in this Budget will help to build a better future for all Tasmanians and provide a skilled workforce for our growing economy.

Our priority is to provide the best education to help all Tasmanians reach their potential. We also want to help our young children get ready for school and reduce class sizes.

We will increase and continue to support our teaching workforce, lift education achievement and provide more support for quality child care. We will ensure that families engage in reading and build on their literacy skills.

The focus of the 2006-07 Budget is on providing a range of educational, training and information services designed to deliver quality curriculums, quality teaching and quality learning environments.

Delivering our commitments

The 2006-07 Budget will deliver a range of exciting and vital initiatives focussed on building on the improvement in Tasmania's education system.

Initiative	Benefit
\$22.5 million over five years to employ an extra 89 teachers to further reduce class sizes in all government primary school grades and Grade 7	Reduce class sizes to 25 students or less and build more classrooms at a number of schools to provide extra accommodation
\$12.6 million for the Launching into Learning initiative for young children and their families	Support for young children, particularly those at risk, before they formally start school
\$9.7 million funding boost to TAFE Tasmania to address skills shortages	Attract and skill-up 340 apprentices and trainees in key trades
Extra funding for students with special needs in government (\$4 million) and Catholic (\$1 million) schools	Enhance learning support for students with high and/or additional needs
\$30 million for a new high school at Kingston	Accommodate up to 750 students and include cutting-edge information and communications technology and specialist facilities
\$400,000 to expand the successful Reading Together program	Work with families from Devonport, Glenorchy, George Town, New Norfolk and Mayfield to explore ways of developing their children's literacy skills
\$1.1 million to refurbish Claremont College's Young Mothers Program facility, and to employ more staff	Suitable sleep areas for children as well as an enhanced playground and extra rooms for individual or group work and meetings; a college coordinator and Youth Learning Officer to help with case management, pathway planning and educational programs
\$140,000 to raise the profile of childcare workers	Increase training and support for new child carers and the training of carers to take on management roles
\$400,000 to boost funding to the School Uniform Emergency Assistance Scheme	Assist low-income Tasmanians to buy school uniforms
\$10,000 p.a. funding to establish a not-for-profit early years parents and friends group	Help parents set standards and monitor the provision of quality child care in Tasmania
\$2 million in 2006-07 to continue the successful \$8 million Laptops for Teachers Program	Improve electronic access to curriculum planning, assessment and organisational tools for teachers
Continue to support the \$12.6 million Skills for Growth initiative	Build workforce capacity in the trades and other growth industries and provide skill development and upskilling in industries, including the proposed pulp mill in northern Tasmania



Did you know?

- Since 1998 the State Labor Government has injected **\$257 million more** into education (an increase of 49.6%).
- The Government has provided an **additional \$50 million** to address skills shortages over just three Budgets.
- The State Government has increased funding support for students with high and additional needs from \$23.1 million in 1998 to **\$39.6 million in 2006** – an increase of 71%.
- Since 1998, **\$17.2 million** has been invested to provide quality child care to Tasmanians. This includes **six new childcare centres** at primary schools throughout the State.
- The Government has allocated **\$45.5 million** from infrastructure funds since 2001-02 for important maintenance and minor works, information technology and other education portfolio initiatives.
- **\$12.6 million** has already been spent on the development and implementation of the Essential Learnings Framework.
- In 2002 the Government set a target to reduce class sizes to 25 in Prep and Year 1. These classes are now down to an **average of 23 students**.
- With an **extra 12,600 computers** in our schools, Tasmania now has one of the best student/computer ratios in the world, from 33:1 in 1998 to 5:1.
- The State Government has boosted funding to help low-income families buy school uniforms by more than 10-fold in 4 years (an increase of \$224,000 p.a.).
- An **extra \$2.8 million p.a.** is also being spent annually on the Student Assistance Scheme.
- **\$1.5 million** more has been spent on putting more books, DVDs and CDs on the shelves of libraries throughout the State.

Looking to the future

The 2006-07 Budget delivers on Labor's 2006 election commitments to quality education.

The Tasmanian Government's education plan is to equip students with the skills they need for the new Tasmania.

A Tasmania that is part of a global economy.

The Tasmanian State Government is dedicated to quality curriculums, quality teaching and quality learning environments.

By working in partnership with the Tasmanian education community, the Tasmanian Government will ensure we remain at the forefront of educational excellence.

A strong education is the foundation on which the Tasmanian community will continue to prosper and grow.

Further information

For further information please contact:

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2006-07 Budget Paper set includes:

Tasmanian Budget Speech
Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Overview
Budget Paper No. 2 – Operations of Government Departments (Volumes 1 and 2)
The Tasmanian Government Financial System
Various brochures

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