



Shaping a
thinking future.

Tasmanian Budget
07-08

Education and Skills

Future direction

Education and skills development play a vital role in assisting all Tasmanians to fulfil their potential. Education improves opportunity for our people and the Government remains committed to the current and future skills and education needs of Tasmanians.

Skills and education also play a significant role in shaping the future productivity and competitiveness of the State.

If we improve the post-compulsory education level attained by one year, Tasmania's economic productivity will increase by eight per cent.

More importantly, it creates a brighter future for many young Tasmanians.

In 2007-08 a new retention-focused strategy will take Tasmania's education sector forward to a more productive future.

The Government will restructure the post-compulsory education and training sector to align it with stronger pathways to employment and applied learning. Under this new initiative three organisations will be created from our existing senior secondary colleges and TAFE Tasmania. Each of these new organisations will have a clearly focused new role.

An institute of academic studies will focus on academic learning to provide an academic pathway and curriculum for Year 11 and 12 students seeking university entrance. This organisation will support the personal and academic pathways of young people who want to take up a profession requiring a university degree.

An institute of applied education will focus on applied learning through vocational and academic pathways for students seeking employment or university entrance. These could be Year 11 and 12 students preparing to enter the workforce, or adults seeking to change careers, re-enter the workforce or gain further skills or qualifications.

The Government will also establish a training enterprise focused on skills development within the workplace that meets the needs of the business. This organisation will work with businesses to upskill their workforces and enable them to become more productive and profitable.

This strategy is the next step in the Government's bold approach to creating education communities in Tasmania that put the student at the centre. These important changes will provide Tasmanian people with more opportunities for achieving the skills and qualifications that our economy needs.

It will raise educational standards and support and encourage lifelong learning and workplace application. It will improve accountability and ensure that we make the best use of the expertise of our teachers and of our resources.

The skills and educational needs of Tasmanians extend beyond post-compulsory education and training. The State Government's vision has translated into action across many areas. A record level investment program will re-invigorate existing facilities and provide new facilities to enhance education outcomes for current and future generations. The Government is also supporting vulnerable students with special needs, providing assistance with education costs and expanding the Student Assistance Scheme.

The 2007-08 Budget continues to deliver the Tasmanian Government's long-term vision and commitment to education and training.

Delivering for Tasmanians

- No government in our history has funded capital works to this level for new school buildings and facilities. This year we are spending \$26.9 million as part of a four-year, \$91.6 million program – an increase of 45%.
- The State Government has increased funding support for students with high and additional needs from \$23.1 million in 1998 to \$48.7 million in 2007-08 – an increase of 111%.
- In 2002, the Government set a target to reduce class sizes in Prep and Year 1. These classes are now down from 25 to an average of 23.6 students.
- With an extra 14,450 computers in our schools, Tasmania now has one of the best student/computer ratios in the world, from 33:1 in 1998 to 3.9:1 in 2006.
- The State Government has boosted funding to help low-income families buy school uniforms by more than 10-fold in five years (an increase of \$224,000).
- An increase of \$2.8 million per annum is also being spent on the Student Assistance Scheme (STAS).

What this budget delivers for Tasmanians

Initiative	Benefit
<i>Investing in Tasmanians post-compulsory education reforms</i>	Address retention rates by realigning post-school education and training to provide clear pathways for students and mature-age adults seeking further training, and to meet the needs of business.
\$26.9 million Education capital investment	First year of a \$91.6 million, four-year program to enhance schools, college, TAFE and library facilities. The program also includes provision to establish a new Learning Information Network Centre (LINC) and a strategy for renewing school structures or their location within existing school sites.
Second year of a \$12.6 million , four-year Launching into Learning initiative for young children and their families	Support for young children, particularly those at risk, before they formally start school.
\$3 million to Learning Services for literacy strategies	Provide funding to the four Learning Services to improve literacy outcomes.
\$835,000 over four years to support early years literacy	Enhance literacy opportunities for young people by providing books for parents to read to their children.
\$2.4 million over four years to improve the Department's information technology infrastructure and business systems	Fund urgent and important information system replacement and upgrades, including the costs of new student administration and school finance systems.
Second year of a \$13.4 million , five-year initiative to reduce class sizes for Years 2-6	Reduce pupil-teacher ratio to below the national average.
Second year of a \$6.6 million , five-year initiative to reduce class sizes in Grade 7	Reduce pupil-teacher ratio to below the national average.
Extra funding for students with special needs in government (\$1 million in the second year of a four-year program), Catholic (\$250,000) and Independent (\$140,000) schools	Enhance learning support for students with high and/or additional needs.
\$10.4 million over four years to support non-government schools	Ensure funding levels to non-government schools are maintained as agreed between the Government and non-government school sectors.
\$600,000 extra funding to support small schools	Help small schools by providing additional resources and support to improve staffing levels and communications.
\$250,000 to progress strategies that have emerged from the Engaging our School Communities initiative	Increase the involvement of community members in decision making and increase the use of all departmental facilities, including schools, libraries and online access centres.
\$120,000 to establish School Improvement Boards in each of the four Learning Services	Establish the four School Improvement Boards with members of the business community, school principals and education leaders to help Learning Services respond effectively to learning needs in schools.
\$20,000 to expand the Student Assistance Scheme	Provide access to the scheme for students in the care of grandparents.
\$242,000 to continue to provide school uniform assistance	Assist low-income Tasmanians to buy school uniforms.
Third year of the \$12.6 million , four-year Skills for Growth program	Build workforce capacity in the trades and other growth industries and provide skills development and upskilling in industries.
\$7.9 million to continue the post-Year 10 education and training strategy, Tasmania: A State of Learning	Improve post-Year 10 education and training opportunities for Tasmanians.
Second year of a \$9.6 million , four-year program for TAFE Tasmania	Attract and skill-up 340 apprentices and trainees in key trades.
Third year of a \$2.8 million , four-year initiative to continue programs by the Australian Maritime College	Meet the costs of fishing, aquaculture and maritime training previously funded by the Australian Government.

Further information

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Education and Skills Snapshot

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2007-08 Budget Paper set includes:

Tasmanian Budget Speech
Budget Paper No. 1 – The Budget
Budget Paper No. 2 – Government Services
(Volumes 1 and 2)
The Tasmanian Government Financial System
Various brochures

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