



## Education and literacy

One of the best ways to alleviate poverty and encourage economic growth is to provide people with better educational opportunities. It is widely acknowledged that literacy and numeracy skills are the base upon which all other educational achievement is built.

The Government is taking action to improve the educational outcomes of Tasmanian students. This improvement is not something that can be achieved with short-term quick fixes. It requires a comprehensive strategy and a commitment to long-term work and real results.

The 2008-09 Budget delivers a range of new and continuing initiatives that will provide increased opportunities to Tasmanian children and families and provide the skills required by our growing Tasmanian economy.

### Budget initiatives

<b>Supporting Tasmanian school children</b>	<b>\$66.7 m</b>
• <i>Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap</i> initiative to improve literacy and numeracy.	<b>\$34.8 m</b>
• Improving support and resources for Tasmanian Government school children with high and additional needs.	<b>\$16.8 m</b>
• Supporting Tasmania's child carers and improving child care services.	<b>\$1 m</b>
• Purchase of musical instruments for Tasmania's schools.	<b>\$200,000</b>
• Grants to non-government schools to provide services to their school communities.	<b>\$12.9 m</b>
• Tasmanian Education Foundation (TEF) – a Tasmanian based foundation to promote the value of education and learning.	<b>\$1 m</b>
<b>Investing in Tasmania's schools</b>	<b>\$135.3 m</b>
• Capital funding to undertake the exciting redevelopment of education infrastructure in the Bridgewater and Southern Midlands community.	<b>\$30 m</b>
• A new high school at Kingston to meet the educational needs of the fast-growing Kingborough municipality.	<b>\$30 m</b>
• Redevelop our schools to drive delivery of the Tasmania Tomorrow reforms.	<b>\$7.8 m</b>
• Refurbishment of existing facilities at many secondary and district high schools around the State.	<b>\$6 m</b>
• Other capital investment projects across the State to redevelop schools and libraries.	<b>\$61.5 m</b>
<b>Increasing skills</b>	<b>\$18.5 m</b>
• Providing 2,000 new training places through the <i>Skilling Tasmania</i> initiative.	<b>\$7.2 m</b>
• Funding four new regional Learning and Information Network Centres (LINC)s across regional Tasmania to integrate community learning, libraries and technology access with other government services.	<b>\$11.3 m</b>



## Continuing initiatives

- **Reducing class sizes** – continuation of the Government's **\$20 million** initiative to reduce class sizes for years 2 to 7.
- **Skills Development TAFE Tasmania** – continuation of the Government's **\$9.7 million** TAFE Tasmania program to attract and skill up 340 apprentices and trainees in traditional trades.
- **Skills for Growth program** – continuation of the Government's **\$12.6 million** program to improve the skills of Tasmanian workers.
- **Tasmania: A State of Learning** – **\$9.5 million** to continue to improve the post-year 10 education and training opportunities for Tasmanians.
- **Launching into Learning** – continuation of the **\$12.6 million** initiative to support at risk young children and their families before they start school.
- **Early years literacy** – second year of a **\$835,000** initiative to provide books for parents to read to their children.
- **IT infrastructure and business systems** – continuation of a **\$2.4 million** four year program to fund important IT system replacement and upgrades.
- **School uniform bursary** – continuation of the Government's increased commitment to assist low income Tasmanians.
- **Australian Maritime College** – continuation of a **\$2.8 million** four year initiative to continue programs by the Australian Maritime College to meet the costs of fishing, aquaculture and maritime training.

## Tasmania – then and now

	1998	2008
Education Budget	\$523.3 m	<b>\$868.3 m</b>
Support for students with high and additional needs	\$23.1 m	<b>\$54.1 m</b>
Literacy and numeracy programs	\$9.5 m	<b>\$31 m</b>
Student Assistance Scheme Funding	\$2.6 m	<b>\$5.3 m</b>
Schools Capital Funding committed	\$9.21 m	<b>\$36.4 m</b>
Number of students	67,764	<b>61,300</b>
Number of teachers	4,500	<b>4,290</b>
Average class size – primary	25.5	<b>24.2</b>
Average class size – secondary	24.7	<b>23.6</b>
Computers in schools	2,008	<b>15,194</b>

## Further information

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