

Better Health and Education Services A Healthier Territory

The Territory Government has increased spending on health by 43% since 2001 to provide better health services.

Budget 2005 Health and Community Services spending is now a record \$687 million to build a better health system.

BACKING HOSPITALS

Budget 2005 includes record spending to support our hospitals:

- Alice Springs Hospital funding has increased to \$81.2 million
- Royal Darwin Hospital funding has been boosted to \$156.4 million
- \$8.1 million for Tennant Creek Hospital
- \$20.3 million for Katherine Hospital
- \$15.7 million for Gove District Hospital

Other highlights include:

- an extra \$2 million for renal services in patients' homes and community-based services, with a further \$1.4 million in capital spending on renal services
- \$1.94 million extra ongoing for Alice Springs Hospital for greater medical staffing levels in the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department
- \$500 000 for new NT Health Direct service – a free 24/7 medical advice phone line
- \$500 000 a year to provide extra support for Territorians who need to travel to receive cancer treatment

BACKING THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

Budget 2005 delivers significant funding boosts to health and community services non-government organisations.

They will receive grant indexation to meet the real costs of providing these important services to our community.

This means an increase in grant payments of \$1.13 million in Budget 2005, increasing by more than \$500 000 each year thereafter.

BACKING FAMILIES

Budget 2005 backs Territory families with:

- \$3.7 million to subsidise child care – making child care cheaper
- \$2.5 million for a Birthing Centre
- \$400 000 for extra home birth and maternity services
- \$500 000 for an intensive family support service
- \$300 000 to support seven new remote youth services
- \$8.13 million to support Territory seniors and the Pensioner Concession scheme

Building Better Schools

Budget 2005 delivers a record \$582 million for employment, education and training – an increase of 22% since 2001 – and 100 extra teachers.

An extra \$42 million will be spent on improving secondary education over four years through the Government's Building Better Schools program.

Budget 2005 supports 100 additional teachers above allocation to help classroom teaching.

BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS

Budget 2005 supports the Territory Government's ongoing initiatives in education.

These include:

- Employing 100 teachers above formula
- Providing 19 high school counsellors above formula
- Employing 8 attendance officers
- Introducing Professional Learning communities for teachers
- Providing additional professional development for teachers
- Providing laptops to every classroom teacher
- Increasing IT in schools
- Establishing Interactive Distance Learning Units in Alice Springs and Katherine

BETTER SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Budget 2005 continues the Territory Government's focus on improving education infrastructure with a \$49.5 million program including:

- \$23.95 million for capital works
- \$6 million for minor new works
- \$19.5 million for repairs and maintenance

Since 2001, the Territory Government has upgraded or is upgrading facilities at Darwin High School, Nakara Primary School, Alawa Primary School, Shepherdson College, O'Loughlin College, Essington School, Alice Springs Steiner School, schools at Minyerri, Kalkaringi, Maningrida and Manyallaluk, with significant upgrades at Parap, Leanyer and Papunya schools.

Budget 2005 provides:

- \$5.5 million for a secondary education facility and science block, additional teachers, teacher housing and a VET program at Wadeye
- \$145 000 for Nightcliff High School to extend school areas
- An all-weather access and drop-off zone at Karama Primary School
- \$4.5 million for remote schools, including \$2 million for Mamaruni School, \$1 million for Mapurru Homeland Centre, \$750 000 for Donyddji Homeland Centre and \$750 000 for Gunbalanya Community Education Centre
- \$1.2 million to upgrade airconditioning at Ross Park Primary School over two years
- Capital assistance and/or interest subsidy to further develop Essington School, to provide additional classrooms for O'Loughlin College and St Johns College and land for Alice Springs Steiner School

MORE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

- \$500 000 extra for schools to purchase equipment – brings to \$2 million extra funding for school equipment since February 2004
- \$500 000 extra for teacher housing furniture – brings to \$2.25 million extra funding above standard allocation for this program over the past two Budgets