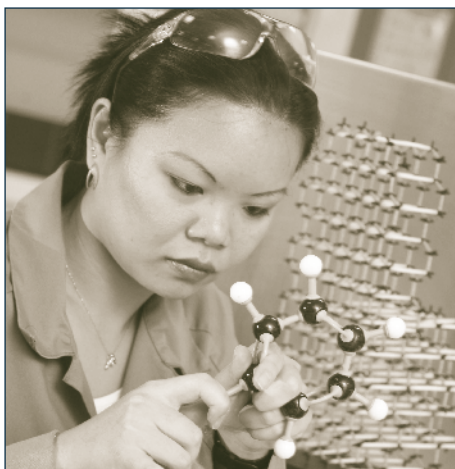


VET in Schools

The 2005-06 Budget includes \$4.4 million for the VET in Schools Program, which is expected to prepare 1100 students for vocational education and training (VET) while still at school, and support them in gaining the skills they need to move into the Territory workforce. The program includes:

- \$2.27 million to provide VET courses in schools and careers advice;
- \$0.95 million to expand VET under Building Better Schools;
- \$0.2 million for school to work transition, which involves training in work placements for students while continuing their normal studies; and
- \$1 million for driver training and licensing for 16 to 18 year olds.



Remote Schools Program

Almost \$4.5 million to upgrade remote schools, including:

- Mamaruni school at Minjilang, Croker Island;
- Donyddji Homeland Centre;
- Mapurru Homeland Centre; and
- Gunbalanya Community Education Centre.

\$2.4 million of works will continue on:

- Shepherdson College;
- Manyallaluk Homeland Centre; and
- Emu Point Homeland Centre.

Education Services

In 2005-06 the Government continues its key priority commitment to better schooling, through:

- \$266 million for early childhood and primary education in Government schools;
- \$139 million for Government secondary schools;
- \$4.4 million for VET in Schools; and
- \$81 million assistance for non-government schools.

Initiatives include:

- \$42 million over four years to implement Building Better Schools to improve the quality and delivery of secondary education programs in urban, rural and remote communities. In 2005-06, \$9.42 million has been allocated to implement a wide range of activities including:
 - qualified counsellors and careers advisers for all secondary schools;
 - improving vocational education and training (VET) programs in secondary schools;
 - supporting teachers and educators with opportunities to develop and share good teaching and learning practices;
 - improving Indigenous students' educational outcomes and providing 20 specialist teachers for face-to-face teaching in remote schools;
 - establishing an interactive distance learning studio at Katherine School of the Air; and
 - conducting a Chief Executive's Student Forum.
- \$6.38 million in 2005-06 to address emerging needs of teachers, educators and students to improve access to curriculum resources and professional development. Specifically, this includes:
 - recurrent funding of \$2 million for the continued expansion of the Accelerated Literacy Program to accelerate the literacy skills of marginalised learners who have failed to make appropriate literacy gains in schools. The aim is to increase the program roll-out for up to 100 schools, involving 10 000 students and 700 teachers, by the end of 2008;
 - \$2.56 million a year for Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers in urban schools who assist with increasing Indigenous student enrolment, attendance and retention, literacy, numeracy and other educational outcomes;

Schools

- a further \$0.5 million to upgrade furniture for teachers housed in remote communities;
- an additional \$0.5 million for equipment needs in Territory schools and community education centres; and
- \$1.57 million as part of a \$5 million program to provide a laptop computer for every Government school classroom teacher to strengthen computer literacy and improve access to online school resources.
- an additional \$1.34 million ongoing for non-government schools, including an additional \$1.17 million recurrent for educational costs associated with curriculum, special student services and information technology;
- \$0.61 million for extending the current year 3 and 5 literacy and numeracy testing program to year 7; and
- recruitment of 100 additional teachers at a cost of \$25.8 million since 2001-02.



Education Infrastructure

Education facilities will be improved in urban and remote settings with \$74.3 million in ongoing infrastructure projects, including \$54.8 million for capital works and \$19.5 million for repairs and maintenance:

- \$4.6 million for Parap Primary School redevelopment works;
- \$8.5 million for Darwin High School redevelopment works;
- \$2.24 million for a new science block and classrooms at Wadeye;
- \$0.84 million for arid region schools airconditioning upgrades at Ross Park and Gillen;
- \$10 million for continuing progress towards a new senior secondary facility at Palmerston; and
- \$2.05 million for ongoing redevelopment of Alawa and Nakara Primary Schools.



Capital assistance of \$0.17 million will be provided in 2005-06 for Essington, St Johns and O'Loughlin non-government schools and for land for the Alice Springs Steiner School.

