



northern territory

# Budget 2006

building the territory's future

Fact Sheet

## HEALTH

The Territory Government is building a healthier Territory through a record Health and Community Services budget. Budget 2006 sees a significant investment in the task of overcoming ill health.

\$788.6 million is provided - an increase in funding of 64% since 2001.

### BACKING TERRITORY HOSPITALS

Budget 2006 provides a strong future for the Territory's hospitals.

- \$196m for the Royal Darwin Hospital - up 75% since 2001
- \$97m for Alice Springs Hospital - up 79% since 2001
- \$10m for Tenant Creek Hospital - up 57% since 2001
- \$23m for Katherine Hospital - up 66% since 2001
- \$17m for Gove District Hospital - up 54% since 2001

### CARERS CARD

Budget 2006 delivers the 2005 election commitment to extend pensioner concessions (excluding travel concessions) to Commonwealth Carer Card holders. \$1.05 million will be provided.

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Strong families are fundamental to the Territory's future. Budget 2006 supports families through:

- \$8.2 million for Pensioner Concessions
- \$3.6 million to subsidise child care - making child care more affordable

- \$500 000 for playground equipment to community based child care centres
- \$450 000 to support people with ageing-related and disability issues to return home to remote communities after hospital stays.
- \$200 000 for a new Family Support Service in the Barkly region

### CHILD EAR HEALTH PROGRAM

As part of the Government's 2005 election commitments an additional \$230 000 will be provided for Child Ear Health programs to ensure children across the Territory receive ear health testing.

### MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Building the future for Territorians with needs caused by mental ill health is a critical part of funding under Budget 2006.

This year initiatives include:

- \$500 000 for a new Central Australian Mental Health Crisis Assessment Service.
- \$500 000 additional funds for community based residential care services with 24 hour support for people with mental illnesses and their carers.



# EDUCATION

Improving student results is an important priority of the Government. Better education outcomes builds a stronger future for Territorians.

Budget 2006 delivers a record \$630.7 million for employment, education and training - an increase of 33% since 2001.

## BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS

The Government's *Building Better Schools* initiative provides an additional \$42 million over four years for secondary education. Budget 2006 funds \$12.45 million of this program including:

- \$2.1 million for subject-specialist teachers for remote schools
- \$1.849 million supporting 19 additional School Counsellors
- \$828 000 to the Teaching and Learning Framework to support teachers
- \$550 000 for the *Collaborative Trial Sites* program to bring secondary education to remote areas
- \$155 000 for *Pathways Mentorship* programs helping students make an easier school to work transition

## A FOCUS ON LITERACY

Budget 2006 includes:

- \$4.39 million joint Territory-Federal funds for the National Accelerated Literacy project - this year extending to 27 schools, 3300 students, 150 classes and training 220 teachers.
- \$300 000 for Bilingual Education programs.

## SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Budget 2006 continues the Territory Government's strong support for teachers. This includes:

- \$8.14 million for ongoing support for employing 100 teachers above formula.

- \$1.57 million for continuing to provide each school based teacher with a laptop computer.
- \$500 000 for the *Professional Learning Communities* programs.

## EQUIPPING SCHOOLS

Budget 2006 allocates \$67.5 million to the education infrastructure program.

Specifically:

- \$20 million for repairs and maintenance across all schools.
- \$10 million in 2006 for Middle Schools infrastructure
- \$9.3 million for Palmerston High School
- \$8.6 million for the Desert People's Centre in Alice Springs.
- \$2.5 million to rebuild Wugular School on higher ground.
- \$800 000 for new classrooms in support of special needs students at Humpty Doo School.

Ongoing works include:

- New classrooms at Donyddji and Mapurru Homeland Centres
- Upgrade classrooms at Gunbalanya Community Education Centre
- New secondary facilities and teacher houses at Wadeye
- Ongoing redevelopment of Darwin High School.