

Northern Territory

Budget 2007 *jobs, growth, lifestyle*

SKILLING THE TERRITORY JOBS PLAN 3

Jobs for Territorians are at the heart of Budget 2007. This year, the Budget includes additional funding for Jobs Plan 3 – a new targeted agenda to promote training and employment for Territorians. This brings the Government's total commitment for Jobs Plan initiatives to \$21.3 million over the next four years. Jobs Plan 3 builds on the success of earlier Jobs Plans through targeting the opportunities and the gaps existing in today's training and employment markets.

EMPLOYER INCENTIVES

\$1.36 million per year will be available for employers who take on apprentices in occupational skill shortage areas under the Occupational Shortages Employer Incentive scheme.

There are 340 incentives, each valued at \$4000, available annually, which includes a bonus payment on completion of the apprenticeship or traineeship.

WORKWEAR WORKGEAR

\$1.25 million is provided as grants to apprentices and trainees through the WorkWear WorkGear bonus. This is to help pay for the costs of starting their training.

WORKREADY PROGRAM

The WorkReady program helps Year 11 and 12 students prepare for apprenticeships and traineeships. Budget 2007 provides \$200 000 to deliver this program across all high schools in the Darwin area.

MORE TRAINING FOR MORE TERRITORIANS

The Government will target groups to ensure that more Territorians are able to enter the workforce, with:

- \$1.6 million provided for an additional 100 Public Sector traineeships, with a focus on employing Indigenous apprentices and people from disadvantaged groups
- 200 incentives valued at \$2000 each for employers who take on an apprentice or trainee from a disadvantaged group
- \$1 million to address training and employment needs of Indigenous adults in regional and remote areas

The Government will also provide \$45 million to Charles Darwin University and \$9.5 million to Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

BUILDSKILLS NT

\$500 000 per year is provided to build on the skills of existing workers through targeted training in identified skill shortage areas.



EDUCATION

Budget 2007 provides a record \$658 million for employment, education and training. The Territory Government has increased funding by 38% since 2001.

BUILDING THE TERRITORY'S SCHOOLS

Budget 2007 continues to boost education infrastructure for the Middle Schools program.

The ongoing \$49.6 million program contains:

- \$20 million for a new middle school on the Darwin campus **UNDER WAY**
- \$11.13 million to redevelop Palmerston High School **UNDER WAY**
- \$3.4 million for Casuarina Senior College **COMPLETED**
- \$970 000 for Katherine High School **UNDER WAY**
- \$1.4 million for the Centralian College **COMPLETED**
- \$1.35 million for Nhulunbuy High School **STARTING SOON**
- \$4.6 million for Taminmin High School **UNDER WAY**
- \$2.5 million to upgrade the traffic flow to Darwin High School

New building programs will also be funded:

- \$1 million for the Millner Primary assembly area
- \$1 million for the Wanguri Primary general upgrade
- \$1 million for the Ross Park Primary upgrade

In Budget 2007, \$6.22 million will be provided for minor new works and \$21.14 million for repairs and maintenance to schools.

ACCELERATED LITERACY

To lift literacy rates, the Territory Government is jointly funding a program of accelerated literacy learning across the Territory.

Budget 2007 will provide \$2.69 million towards this program.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

The Government continues its strong support of Territory teachers through Budget 2007, with:

- \$8.14 million for continuing 100 teachers above formula
- \$1.8 million for supporting 19 school counsellors above formula
- \$1.7 million for continuing to provide every school-based teacher with a laptop computer

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Territory Government will spend \$1.21 million underpinning Indigenous Education Partnerships with 15 major communities to lift education outcomes in these areas.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

\$11.67 million will be provided in support of the new world-class Distance Education NT.