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State Budget 2006–07

Budget Highlights

Department of Education and the Arts



EDUCATION



Budget Highlights

Education



Message from the Minister

The 2006–07 State Budget underpins the strongest growth in Queensland education in the State’s history with new facilities and a raft of reforms to support students.

It supports our Smart State commitment to build a modern, responsive education system that equips our young people for the challenges of the 21st century.

The centrepiece of the Budget is a \$1 billion injection into Queensland state and non-state schools. *Tomorrow’s Schools — Providing for a Smarter Future* is a comprehensive five-year school rebuilding and renewal program that will modernise existing school classrooms and build new facilities where needed. This program will revitalise Queensland state schools and equip them with the infrastructure they need to educate students for the future.

In total, spending on school capital works will rise to \$497.1 million this Budget — a 9.2 percent increase from the 2005–06 program. We will also boost our recurrent investment in Queensland’s state and non-state schooling sectors to a record \$5.17 billion — an 8.6 percent increase on the 2005–06 Budget.

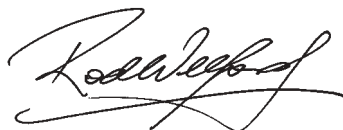
2007 will be a landmark year for Queensland schooling with the introduction of a full-time Preparatory Year in state, Catholic and Independent schools. It will be an exciting time for the estimated 25,000 young students born between January and June 2002 who start the Prep Year at more than 1,300 Queensland state and non-state schools.

The Budget provides \$106 million in 2006–07 for new and refurbished Prep Year classrooms in state schools as part of the largest single school building program in Queensland’s history. It supports the employment of up to 100 new state school teachers who will join the existing early years teachers to staff the new Prep Year.

In addition, our Government remains committed to smaller class sizes and will employ another 150 extra state school teachers in 2007 as the final stage of our plan to reduce class size targets in Years 4–10 to 28 students. In 2006–07, more than \$40 million will be invested in skilling state school staff to implement new syllabuses and key Government initiatives.

Comprehensive reforms to senior schooling in Queensland will continue to roll out during 2006–07. Year 11 students in 2007 will be the first group to work towards the new Queensland Certificate of Education. More than \$20 million will support the Government’s ‘learning or earning’ reforms which apply to all students in Queensland state, Catholic and Independent schools.

A highly educated and skilled community drives innovation, enterprise and economic growth. The 2006–07 State Budget provides the financial basis to equip young Queenslanders with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at school and beyond. This is at the heart of the Queensland Government’s Smart State agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Welford' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rod Welford MP

Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts

Building new schools for new times

Tomorrow's Schools – Providing for a Smarter Future:

This Budget delivers a \$1 billion injection over five years into the state and non-state education sector. *Tomorrow's Schools – Providing for a Smarter Future* will ensure that Queensland students have the best possible facilities to meet the needs of the future. The program will see consultation with school communities to modernise existing infrastructure and provide new facilities. This will better integrate schools and their communities and provide optimum conditions for improved learning outcomes for Queensland students.

The \$1 billion *Tomorrow's Schools – Providing for a Smarter Future* package is in addition to the existing annual capital expenditure on school infrastructure. Key components of the package are:

- \$50 million capital grants in 2006–07 to state school communities through a submission process by schools and their Parents and Citizens' Associations to support minor capital works programs responsive to local needs
- \$850 million over five years to modernise existing infrastructure and provide new facilities required for the future in state schools. Up to \$20 million has been allocated in 2006–07 for planning and design work. This will include consultation with Parents and Citizens' Associations and local community leaders in determining the future school facilities needs of their regions
- \$100 million to Catholic and Independent schools as a one-off payment in 2005–06 in recognition of their need for additional capital assistance, costs associated with external infrastructure, air-conditioning, asbestos replacement and the increasing demand for information and communication technologies

Meeting growth and modernising our public schools: The Government's funding commitment for capital works in 2006–07 of \$497.1 million includes:

- \$169.8 million for new schools, classrooms and facilities to accommodate Queensland's growing student population including:
 - the first stages of primary schools at Burpengary north of Brisbane, Edmonton in Cairns and Springfield near Ipswich and a new middle school at Redlynch in Cairns;
 - further stages of construction at schools including: Stretton State College in Brisbane's south, Chancellor State College on the Sunshine Coast, North Lakes State College at Mango Hill and Upper Coomera State College on the Gold Coast; and
 - \$3 million to plan for a new \$36 million primary school on the northern Gold Coast, which will open in 2008
- \$98.5 million for a range of building improvement programs to modernise state school libraries and administration areas, upgrade toilets and special education facilities and upgrade schools' electrical supply. Major projects include:
 - \$7.9 million of the \$20 million renewal of Brisbane State High School; and
 - \$1.6 million of the \$6.3 million new Queensland College of Wine Tourism at Stanthorpe State High School

Queensland Academies: This Budget provides \$12.5 million for first stage works at new academies for Queensland's best and brightest in maths, science and technology, and the creative arts. Up to 300 places in Years 10 and 11 will be available at each of the two Brisbane-based academies in 2007. The State Government committed \$45.8 million (including \$40 million in capital costs) over four years from 2005–06 to establish the academies, as part of the second phase of the Government's Smart State strategy.

Technology: This Budget also supports the State Government's ongoing commitment to equip Queensland students, teachers and schools for the information age. The *Smart Classrooms* strategy continues to provide impetus for the integration of new technologies into teaching and learning and the smart use of technology to drive efficiencies in our education system. In 2006–07, the Government will invest approximately \$84 million, which includes \$21.4 million from the four-year \$56 million Smart Queensland strategy, in school technology programs including:

- \$30 million in grants to state schools to buy new computers and other technologies
- \$36 million for cabling and telephone services as well as secure school Internet access, email and web services
- \$10 million to continue creating a standardised computer operating environment across all state schools and to establish a central help desk to support Queensland's 1,276 state schools deal with software and equipment breakdowns



Maintaining our schools: The State Government provides a range of funding to state schools for minor repairs and maintenance works, as well as more significant projects such as replacing roofs and repainting buildings. In 2006–07, the Government will spend:

- \$35.4 million to continue to fast-track the Asbestos Roof Replacement Program (ARRP) in state schools
- \$4.5 million from a new two-year \$9 million program to install electrical safety switches in approximately 100 state schools
- \$9 million to complete projects in the current round of the Cooler Schools program in state schools

Investing in our school workforce

More teachers: To support Queensland's increasing student population and the Government's commitment to reduce class size targets in the middle years and improve career opportunities for teachers, in 2007 the Department will:

- employ up to 224 additional teachers to meet enrolment growth
- employ 150 extra teachers as the final stage of the Government's commitment to reduce class size targets in Years 4–10 to 28 students
- create 300 new heads of curriculum positions in primary and special schools to provide new career opportunities for teachers and provide a stronger focus on programs for students



Skilling the school workforce: Supporting school staff to implement Government initiatives and keep up to date with the latest technologies and education trends is an ongoing Budget priority. In 2006–07, more than \$40 million will be invested in skilling state school staff to implement new syllabuses and key Government initiatives in areas such as literacy and behaviour management as well as supporting leadership and induction for teaching and non-teaching staff. At a statewide level, the recently established Queensland College of Teachers, which oversees the registration of teachers in state, Catholic and Independent schools, will continue its work in 2006–07 to build the professional standards of Queensland's teaching workforce.

Upgraded teacher housing: Providing housing for state school teachers who move away from their homes to take up posts in regional and remote areas is also an ongoing commitment of this Government. In 2006–07, \$7.1 million has been allocated to upgrade teacher housing.

Laying the foundations for success in the early years

This Budget provides the financial blueprint for the historic introduction of Queensland's new Preparatory Year in 2007, which will give Queensland children the best start to their education. The full-time, non-compulsory Preparatory Year will replace Preschool in state schools and be available at Queensland state, Catholic and Independent primary schools. In 2006–07, the State Government will fund:

- \$106 million to continue to deliver new and refurbished Preparatory Year classrooms in state schools. The full implementation of the Preparatory Year requires a significant school building program providing approximately 1,600 classrooms
- up to 100 new state school teachers, who will join the existing early years teachers to staff the new year of schooling
- up to an additional 10,000 teacher aide hours per week to support the full implementation of the Preparatory Year in state schools
- \$11 million in grants to state schools for Preparatory Year curriculum resources such as books, art and craft materials and indoor play equipment
- \$1.4 million to provide professional development for state school Preparatory Year teachers



- \$3.1 million from the Government's total \$65.3 million commitment over five years to 2007–08 to Catholic and Independent schools to help them deliver the additional Preparatory Year of schooling
- \$32.8 million to the Creche and Kindergarten Association to offer pre-Preparatory services

Building a brighter future for young Queenslanders

The Government's comprehensive 'learning or earning' reforms for senior schooling are making learning more flexible, exciting and relevant to students. Young Queenslanders will have access to better support services and programs to help them stay in education, training or work until they turn 17 years of age. In 2006–07, \$20.8 million will be invested in a range of support services including:

- an additional \$2 million in ongoing funds for services that support students who have fallen through the education and training net
- \$9.6 million to continue to fund 113 youth support coordinators
- \$5.9 million in grants for locally driven initiatives identified through the district youth achievement planning process
- \$1.8 million to employ staff to coordinate vocational education and training programs and career guidance and counselling in schools
- \$1.5 million for the Queensland Studies Authority to continue to develop:
 - Queensland's new senior schooling qualification – the Queensland Certificate of Education – which will be awarded for the first time in 2008; and
 - an assessment bank database to register young people's learning achievements for the new senior qualification

Equipping students with the essentials for learning and life

Literacy and numeracy: This Budget underpins the State Government's commitment to boost student literacy skills with a total investment of \$173.1 million in literacy and numeracy initiatives. In 2006–07, key actions under the Government's literacy blueprint for state schools, *Literacy – the Key to Learning: Framework for Action 2006–2008*, will begin rolling out across the State. The framework recognises that quality teaching makes the biggest difference to students' literacy outcomes and that literacy is integral to all areas of learning. It is the core business of all teachers. The framework focuses on improving student outcomes by providing Preparatory to Year 9 teachers and teacher aides in the early years with specialist training in the teaching of literacy.

Improved assessment and reporting: Work will continue during 2006–07 on achieving greater consistency across curriculum, assessment and reporting in Queensland schools. The new *Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework* will define the essentials that students up to Year 10 in state, Catholic and Independent schools need to know and the standards of achievement they are expected to meet. It will also increase comparability of assessment and reporting across schools. In 2006–07, the \$3.8 million second year of the \$8.3 million three-year QCAR project includes trialling of the statewide comparable assessments in English and Maths in Years 4 and 9.

Healthier students: From 2007, all state schools are required to supply and promote food and drinks that are low in saturated fat, sugar and salt. The new requirements under the *Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy* apply to school tuckshops, vending machines and activities including fundraising ventures, excursions and classroom rewards. The strategy is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to encourage healthy eating and regular physical activity among students. In 2006–07, programs funded out of the Government's four-year \$6.9 million commitment to student health and fitness will continue, including three Healthy School Vans that reinforce healthy lifestyle messages with students. To support improved student health and fitness, the level of physical activity and sport in state schools is being reviewed.

Budget Highlights

Education

Supporting better behaviour in the classroom

Improving standards of behaviour in our state schools is a priority of this Government. This Budget contains \$28.6 million to support the Government's ongoing commitment to strengthening school discipline and promoting positive student behaviour. Children who are free from bullying and harassment learn better. As part of the Government's *Better Behaviour, Better Learning* initiative, Queensland state school students will be required to abide by a new code of behaviour. In 2006–07, the new code is being backed by:

- the introduction of Responsible Behaviour Plans in all state schools from 2007
- \$2.4 million to continue funding 11 Positive Learning Centres which offer intensive educational support for students whose behaviour can be disruptive in a mainstream school environment. More than 100 programs also provide services for students with challenging behaviours and those at risk of leaving school
- \$0.89 million to continue employing 10 guidance officers to work with challenging students

Meeting the needs of Queensland's diverse student population

Indigenous education: Raising the achievement levels of Indigenous students is a priority of this Government. In 2006–07, the Government, under the *Bound for Success* initiative, will provide an additional \$3.5 million in recurrent funding and \$6.2 million in capital funding for projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

transition from home to school and remain in secondary school. This funding is part of a four-year \$19.4 million recurrent funding and \$9.2 million capital funding commitment by the Government to assist students in Cape York, the Torres Strait and other Indigenous Community Council areas. In 2006–07, this funding will:

- enhance pre-Preparatory Year services for Indigenous children to develop their early numeracy and literacy skills in Standard Australian English to better prepare them for school
- provide new and upgraded early learning facilities designed to meet the needs of children in the year before the Preparatory Year
- improve support services for students who move away from their families to attend secondary school

Students with disabilities: The State Government is boosting its financial support for students with disabilities in state and non-state schools by an additional \$5.2 million in 2006–07. These funds will be used to employ additional teachers, teacher aides and therapists. The funds are part of a new four-year \$37.9 million commitment to provide specialist assistance to students with disabilities.

Non-state schools: The Government provides significant financial support to Queensland's 465 Catholic and Independent schools. This Budget continues the Government's support for these school communities. In 2006–07, non-state schools will receive \$368.7 million in recurrent funding and \$46.8 million for external infrastructure and capital assistance.



Queensland
Government

State Budget 2006–07

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