

## School Education

The centrepiece was the **National Plan for School Improvement**

- Introduced the Australian Education Act to The National Plan for School Improvement – a plan for properly resourcing all our classrooms, teachers and kids for generations to come. A plan to see our classrooms in the top 5 in the world by 2025.
- Preparing to deliver an extra \$14.5b for Australian schools over the next six years. That's an average of \$4000 for every Australian student and \$1.5m for every school in the country.
- To help pay for new literacy and numeracy coaches, specialist staff like language teachers, teaching resources and modern equipment.

In 2012-13 **investing \$14.4b** compared to \$8.5b in the last (2006-07) Howard Government Budget.

- Built or upgraded schools facilities throughout Australia – almost 24,000 projects in around 9500 schools, including:
  - More than 500 science and language centres
  - More than 3100 libraries
  - More than 4500 classrooms
  - More than 2900 multi-purpose halls
  - More than 2900 covered outdoor learning areas, and
  - More than 260 Trade Training Centres
- Parents and school communities have more information about schools than ever before through the My School website, with over 5.2 million unique visitors up to June 2013.
- Schools and students benefitting from the \$2.5b in **Smarter Schools National Partnerships**, helping to improve literacy and numeracy, boost teacher quality and provide extra support to low socio economic status schools.
  - Over 850,000 students in 2705 schools (2011 government schools, 462 Catholic schools and 232 independent schools) received **extra funding through the Low SES and Literacy and Numeracy partnerships**. All teachers and school leaders are targeted under the National Partnership for Improving Teacher Quality.
  - Funding was used to provide mentoring, coaching, workshops and induction programs for teachers and school leaders; for literacy and numeracy coaches; breakfast clubs and homework clubs; for new resources; for specialist teaching programs; and to increase community participation in schools.
- Another \$243.9m was invested in a new Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership (ILNNP) to build on the success of the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership
  - The ILNNP aims to **improve the outcomes of students**, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, who are falling behind in literacy and numeracy. It will support states and territories to

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expand the implementation of proven effective literacy and numeracy strategies in over 1900 schools where under-performance is still a problem.

- The government delivered more than 967,000 computers across Australia, one for every student in Years 9-12.
- Delivered the first stage of a **national curriculum** from Foundation to Year 12, which has started with English, mathematics, history and science.
- \$2.5b invested in **Trade Training Centres**, giving high school students access to industry-standard training, helping them complete school and get a job
- Committed over \$64m to the **Empowering Local Schools** initiative, giving principals in 926 schools across the country more local decision-making powers over things like staffing and budgets.
- Delivered an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan** with states, territories and non-government schools.
  - Invested \$128.6m help boost **school attendance**, literacy and numeracy skills, strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educator workforce and provide extra resources to schools that are in most need of help.
  - Including **\$70m for 385 Focus Schools**, helping around 10,000 Indigenous students stay in school and achieve better results.
  - Participating schools to have established Next Steps Plans that emphasise School and Community Partnership Agreements, personalised learning plans, and whole school literacy and numeracy strategies.
  - The plans identify the needs of each individual school and were developed through a process that involved members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
  - Examples of **strategies to lift attendance** are:
    - strengthening school and community relationships through newsletters and meetings;
    - employment of Indigenous Education Workers;
    - funding Indigenous awareness programs such as Connecting to Country;
    - developing signage in local Indigenous languages; and
    - developing cultural awareness and understanding of education workers through professional development.
- Closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students through:
  - Over 500 projects through the **Parental and Community Engagement** (PaCE) program, helping parents more fully take part in their kid's education and schools.
  - Since the program started in 2009, about 53,000 parents and carers and a further 28,000 community members have benefited from the program.
  - The program has **improved parental engagement** and helped families and communities to be involved in their children's education by:
    - helping them connect with schools to get the best results for their children;
    - helping them build relationships with principals and teachers; and

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- supporting them to help children and young people to learn at home.
- Funding **75 projects under the Sporting Chance Program** in WA, NT, SA, QLD, NSW and VIC, supporting 13,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary and secondary school students.
- Investing \$32m in the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation since 2009 to **help young Indigenous people finish their secondary education** and go onto university studies.
- Assisting more than 1,500 Indigenous secondary and tertiary students complete with their education since 2006, through the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.
- Funding 12 **Indigenous Ranger Cadetship** pilot projects to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students complete school and build their capacity for further study, training, jobs and careers in land, sea and natural resource management.
- Introduced, for the first time, a national set of standards for teachers. The Australian **Professional Standards for Teachers** forming the foundation of many other 'first ever' reforms introduced by this Government. These Standards:
  - provide a clear public statement of what constitutes teacher quality;
  - define the work of teachers and make explicit the elements of high quality effective teaching; and
  - make explicit the knowledge, practice and professional engagement required across teachers' careers.
- Provided more than 3500 Australian schools with chaplains and student welfare workers. And implemented an extension program which provides services to 1000 extra schools, many in regional and remote areas.
- Helped more than 1000 workers obtain minimum qualification requirements.
- **Addressed the serious issues of bullying and cyberbullying** by working collaboratively with education authorities to support the take-up of the National Safe Schools Framework by helping schools to develop positive and practical student safety and wellbeing policies.
  - Committed almost \$4m towards the **development of the Safe Schools Hub**. A new one-stop-shop for information on a range of safe school strategies that are underpinned by the National Safe Schools Framework.
    - The first release of the Safe Schools Hub included a Schools Toolkit that includes video case studies and lesson plans designed specifically for school staff, as well as a Safe Schools Audit Tool.
    - Professional learning modules for pre-service teachers, teachers and school leaders and resources for students will be available in early 2014.
  - Worked with all education authorities to develop and promote the release of the **Take a Stand Together** iPhone application that provides young people with instant access to information on how to **manage bullying behaviour**.
  - The Government invested more than \$125m in cybersafety programs to inform and educate young people under our Cybersafety Plan. This included the Cybersafety Help Button a one-stop-shop for cybersafety advice and information, along with the Easy

Guide to Socialising Online, which has step-by-step instructions about how to report cyberbullying and inappropriate content on social media sites.

## Early Childhood

- The goal of every Australian child will have **access to early learning** in the year before full-time school thanks to an extra \$955m invested in early childhood education.
- Invested a further \$655.6m over 18 months from July 2013 to **Maintain universal access and improve participation** by children in early childhood education, with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
- 38 Children and Family Centres built as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- 32 new Early Learning and Care Centres built, providing much needed childcare to Australian families.
- Implemented the first ever national data collection for early childhood, the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).
  - This data is providing governments, communities and schools with a national picture of how our children are developing in five key developmental areas:
    - physical health and wellbeing;
    - social competence;
    - emotional maturity;
    - language and cognitive skills; and
    - communications skills and general knowledge.