

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

Peter Garrett Sept 2010-June 2013 School and Early Childhood Education

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

Peter Garrett Sept 2010-June 2013 School and Early Childhood Education

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.