

# Queensland State Budget 2007–08

## Agency Budget Highlights

Department of Education, Training and the Arts

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Queensland **the Smart State**



**Queensland**  
Government

# Agency Budget Highlights

## Education and Training



### Message from the Minister

The 2007–08 State Budget further underpins the Government's Smart State commitment to build a modern, responsive education and training system that equips Queenslanders for the challenges of the 21st century. It is a Budget that supports the synergies delivered by the addition of training to create a new Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

This is an exciting time for education and training in Queensland with strong enrolment growth, substantial investment in new facilities, reforms in senior schooling and the recent introduction of the Prep Year. And the *Queensland Skills Plan* is providing a blueprint to build the skills to support the most sustained period of growth in our State's history.

In total, spending on school and TAFE infrastructure will be \$527 million to modernise and build schools and training facilities. This includes new schools on the Gold Coast, new Prep facilities and new TAFE projects. We will also boost our recurrent investment in Queensland's state and non-state schooling sectors and the training sector to a record \$6.484 billion — a 7.2 percent increase on the 2006–07 Budget.

With sustained economic growth and an increasing population fuelling a demand for education and training, the Government will grow and support the teaching workforce. An extra 192 teachers and teacher aides will be employed and more than \$44 million will be invested in professional development for staff in schools and TAFE institutes.

There is a continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy with a four-year \$35.6 million funding commitment, including intensive support for primary school children who are not meeting benchmarks. The 2007–08 Budget also supports the full implementation of Prep in 2008 for all children aged 5 years by 30 June in that year.

In line with our Smart State philosophy, the Budget underwrites a significant new \$70 million investment in technology. Over the next four years, every permanent teacher working two days or more per week in our state schools and TAFE institutes will be provided with a dedicated classroom computer.

The 2007–08 Budget further supports the initiatives of our \$1 billion investment in the *Queensland Skills Plan*, which provides a blueprint to meet skills shortages. There are significant new facilities being developed in Brisbane, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. We will also invest in new School Industry Trade Centres to address shortages in key industry sectors including marine and allied trades, engineering, manufacturing and mining.

A highly educated and skilled community drives innovation, enterprise and economic growth. The 2007–08 Budget provides a sound financial basis to underpin the Government's commitment to equip Queenslanders with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at school and beyond.

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

Rod Welford MP  
Minister for Education and Training  
and Minister for the Arts

The Queensland Government is committed to a clever, skilled and creative state where all Queenslanders have access to world-class education and training. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts provides services to develop Queensland's most precious resource, our people.

The 2007–08 Budget commits \$6.484 billion in recurrent funding and \$527 million in capital funding to the education and training sectors, which service 1720 government and non-government schools, 13 TAFE institutes and 1114 registered training providers. A commitment to excellence and new initiatives in learning, leadership and professional development will bolster these two thriving sectors, providing world-class education and training in one of the fastest-growing, most decentralised states in Australia.

## Investing in learning

**Investing in learning is investing in the future. In 2007–08, the Government will finalise its major education reform ensuring Queensland's 700,000 school students follow a smart path of learning from the new Prep Year through to flexible senior schooling and on to post-school vocational or academic education or employment.**

This Budget continues the drive to improve literacy, numeracy and training outcomes for all students with:

- \$35.6 million over the next four years to improve literacy for students in State, Catholic and Independent schools. Intensive literacy support will be offered to upper primary students identified through the Year 5 National Benchmark Tests as needing help.
- \$1.5 million for a new numeracy program will drive high quality mathematics and numeracy programs as the critical factors for improvement in a student's numeracy outcomes. It builds on the *Literacy – the Key to Learning: Framework for Action 2006–2008*.
- \$50 million to support the full implementation of Prep in 2008 through employing more Prep teachers and providing professional development for teaching staff. Funding also includes \$5.5 million in grants to schools for curriculum resources including books, art and craft materials and indoor play equipment.
- \$70 million over four years for state schools and TAFE institutes to provide permanent teachers working two or more days per week with dedicated classroom computers. Funding will start with \$10 million in 2007–08 and increase to \$20 million a year thereafter.
- \$27.5 million to ICT infrastructure for teachers and students in vocational education and training, providing essential access to new technology. This includes a new Learning Management System to support a wider range of higher quality programs for students across the State through upgraded networks, servers and other ICT systems.
- \$2.5 million to better engage Indigenous students in learning and training through increased support from Professional Support Teachers and Learning Support Teams. This is the first stage of a \$10 million, four-year trial.
- a \$30 million program over four years to change instruction from Australasian Signed English to Australian Sign Language (Auslan) for Deaf/hearing impaired students. In addition, students with disabilities will benefit from the second year of the \$37.9 million, four-year commitment introduced in 2006–07.
- establishment of the \$35 million Queensland Academy for Health Sciences. In 2007–08, the permanent facility for the \$43.3 million Queensland Academy for Creative Industries will also open and follows on the success of the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology.

## Investing in our educators

Teachers have the greatest impact on student learning, and improving the quality of our teachers improves education and training outcomes. Ongoing professional development for teachers in schools and TAFE institutes is essential for teachers to be smarter educators and leaders. The Government is committed to building a highly skilled workforce to deliver world-class education and training.

Developing Professionals — This Budget delivers more than \$44 million in 2007–08 to help school and TAFE teachers improve their professional skills, adapt to new directions in education and training and further their own career development through:

- The Developing Performance Framework to ensure the professional goals of all staff in schools meet the Department's aims for excellence in education.
- The New Professionalism program to encourage teachers to maintain or develop their skills as teachers and leaders through scholarships and awards.
- Professional Development Pathways for state school leaders to work towards postgraduate qualifications.



- TAFE Professional Development Strategy 2007–2010 to develop skills in the target areas of innovation in teaching, learning and assessment, and competency-based training and assessment.
- Teach Your Trade, a pilot program for fully qualified tradespeople to become TAFE teachers and work towards a Bachelor of Training degree qualification. This will increase the number of specialists for trade and apprenticeship training in areas of critical shortage.

Meeting Growth — Queensland is the second fastest growing state in Australia with a 1.9 percent population increase in 2005–06. To drive growth, the Government is investing in new staff to achieve excellence in education and training and increase the pool of skilled workers.

As part of this commitment, the Government will employ up to an additional 437 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2007–08 to meet new growth and deliver new programs:

- up to 242 FTEs will be allocated to education, of whom 192 are teachers and teacher aides, to meet enrolment growth in Queensland state schools, and to support students with disabilities.
- up to 195 FTEs will be allocated to deliver training that addresses skills shortages and to continue the implementation of the *Queensland Skills Plan* initiatives.



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- \$2.8 million to develop and implement Skills Formation Strategies. Targeted industries include sustainable energy, sport and recreation and transport (ports and marine).

## Building a smarter future

Investing in educational infrastructure underpins the future economic prosperity of the State. Our children and young people form the intellectual capital that will shape the wealth of this state for generations.

A smarter future requires smarter facilities for learning. In 2007–08, the Government will continue to modernise and build outstanding learning infrastructure through the \$445.5 million Schools' Capital Works Program including:

- \$188.9 million to construct two new primary schools at West Pacific Pines and Northern Coomera, undertake staged work at 11 schools, acquire land and provide additional classrooms at existing schools in growth areas throughout the State.
- \$31.8 million for the completion of more than 60 new or significantly modified Prep Year classrooms and other minor works to finalise the implementation of Prep.

## Building economic prosperity

This Budget is building dynamic education and training sectors to give Queenslanders the right skills and knowledge to drive prosperity in an ever-changing global workplace.

In 2007–08, the Government will invest \$118 million in vocational education and training as part of its four-year \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan*. Under this framework, the Government is working with industry to align Queensland's supply of skilled labour with industry needs. Initiatives for 2007–08 include:

- \$17.1 million to create 4250 new trades training places statewide. By 2010, this will increase to a total of 17 000 extra places.
- \$13.4 million for training and career information services at 17 existing Skilling Solutions Queensland centres.
- \$4.5 million to further industry engagement in vocational education and training through Centres of Excellence. These Centres drive industry leadership of skill development and alert the Government to ensure appropriate investment in labour market areas.



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*State Schools of Tomorrow* — is a major component of the \$1 billion *Tomorrow's Schools — Providing for a Smarter Future* package announced in the 2006–07 Budget. This is an \$850 million, five-year allocation to identify and deliver school renewal and regeneration projects. In 2007–08, pilot projects will establish planning and consultation processes to implement this initiative.

*New Training facilities* — This Budget will continue the Government's six-year capital investment program of more than \$300 million as part of the *Queensland Skills Plan*. Projects include:

- \$33.6 million to continue construction of the \$81.6 million SkillsTech Australia, Acacia Ridge campus.
- \$17.3 million to begin construction of two more SkillsTech Australia specialist training centres in Mackay and Townsville.
- \$2.2 million to refurbish the Cairns campus of Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE.

In addition, the Government will invest \$32 million for the redevelopment of the Southbank Institute of Technology, including 14 new and refurbished buildings.

*School Industry Trade Centres* — This Budget will invest \$5 million as the first stage of an \$11.8 million, four-year initiative to develop School Industry Trade Centres in Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Mackay/Whitsunday, and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.



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