

State Budget 2008–09

Department of Education, Training and the Arts

Agency Budget Highlights



Department of Education, Training and the Arts



Message from the Minister

Every Queenslander at some stage in their life will benefit from the services delivered by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts. These services include providing quality learning experiences, building skills and knowledge, and inspiring innovation and creativity. The 2008–09 State Budget is helping secure Queensland's future by building on these solid foundations.

Our Government will invest \$150 million to transform state schools across Queensland through the \$1 billion Tomorrow's Schools package. Initially, this project has looked at transforming educational facilities in four community clusters in south-east Queensland and Innisfail. In the next phase of this funding program, even more schools are set to benefit from major upgrades.

The project will focus on schools and buildings built before 1988 when more modern school facility standards were introduced. Older school classrooms will be renewed and new facilities with larger learning areas and upgraded computer rooms will be provided. Classrooms will be transformed to 21st century learning standards because all Queensland state school children should have access to excellent learning facilities and opportunities, no matter where they live.

New initiatives to increase the environmental sustainability of our schools will also be introduced as part of our commitment to tackling climate change. In line with this, we will continue to implement the department's statement on sustainability – *Enough for all forever* – which encourages all schools to reduce their ecological footprints.

For the first time, Year 12 students this year who have achieved high standards in learning and vocational education and training will be awarded the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The QCE offers employers and higher education providers the confidence that these students have achieved a solid senior education and are prepared to take the next step into employment, training or further study.

The ongoing investment to reduce the state's skills shortages is a shared responsibility between the State and Federal governments and industry. In 2008–09, a combined investment of over \$1 billion is directed to vocational education and training (VET) in Queensland. This further builds on the success already achieved under the *Queensland Skills Plan*.

This Budget ensures the state's leading arts and cultural institutions can continue to offer world-class experiences accessible to all Queenslanders. It will further strengthen Queensland's diverse arts and cultural sector through supporting and promoting Queensland's talented artists and arts workers.

In 2009, Queensland will mark 150 years as a state. The state's arts and cultural sector will be integral in staging creative and innovative celebrations to mark this milestone.

Important developments for education and training are also occurring at the national level. As the Federal Government's education revolution unfolds in 2008–09, Queensland will be an active participant in shaping a new national agenda for education.

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 Training
and Minister for the Arts

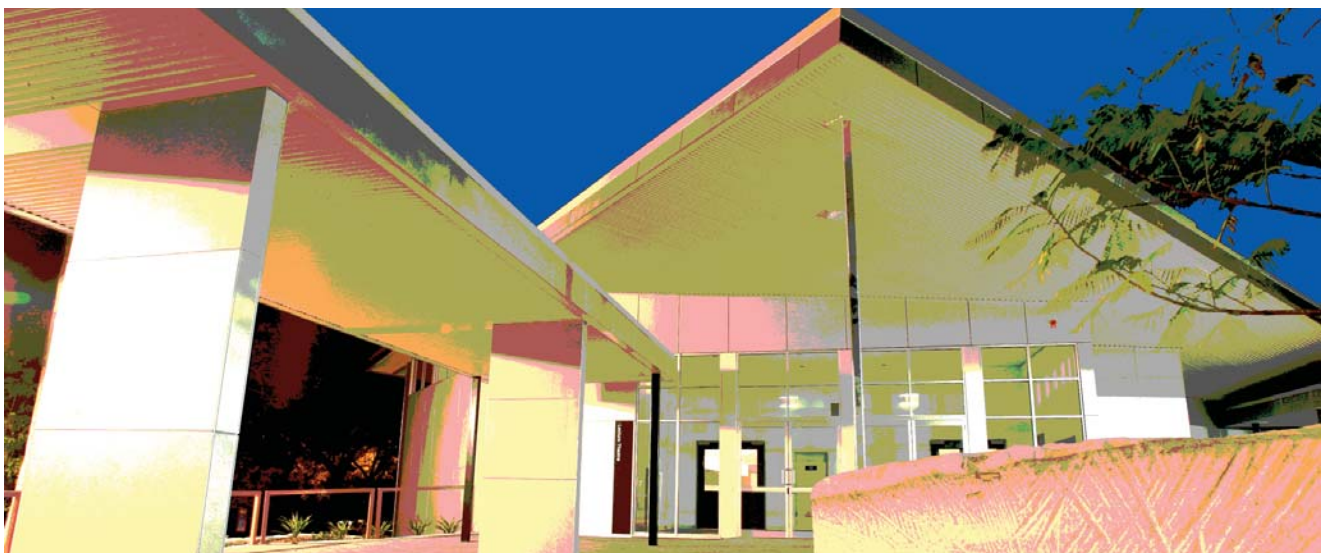
The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is committed to a clever, skilled and creative state where all Queenslanders have access to world-class education and training, and enjoy the richness and diversity of the state's arts and culture. We deliver services to develop Queensland's most precious resource – its people.

The 2008-09 Budget commits \$7.03 billion in recurrent funding and invests \$833.8 million in capital funding to the education, training and arts sectors. A commitment to excellence, and initiatives to improve facilities, learning, leadership and cultural innovation will continue to bolster these three thriving sectors in one of the fastest growing, most decentralised states in Australia.

Building tomorrow's infrastructure

High-quality, sustainable education and training facilities are essential so that Queenslanders have the best possible learning environments. The Government is committed to delivering modern, well-equipped facilities to help all students fulfil their potential with:

- \$89.6 million in 2008-09 to construct four new schools: one in outer northern Brisbane and three on the Gold Coast – two in Ormeau and one in Oxenford.
- \$23 million to complete covered walkways of Prep facilities at state schools in South East Queensland.
- \$150 million to identify and deliver school renewal and regeneration projects as part of the \$850 million, five-year *State Schools of Tomorrow* initiative.
- Invest \$125.1 million in school maintenance, which includes an injection through the *State Schools of Tomorrow* of \$61.6 million (with a total investment of more than \$250 million over two years).
- Invest \$26.2 million to acquire, refurbish and maintain staff accommodation, which includes doubling the maintenance budget for teacher accommodation to more than \$10 million in 2008-09.
- \$54.7 million in flexible and modern training facilities for SkillsTech Australia to continue construction of the Acacia Ridge campus and continue detailed planning and construction of specialist training centres in Townsville and Mackay.
- \$12 million for the construction of the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE Coomera Education Precinct for creative industries.





Skilling Queenslanders

In 2008-09, the department will continue its key vocational education and training activities by:

- continuing to implement the *Queensland Skills Plan* to help address skills shortages through:
 - \$14.9 million for 3,500 additional training places at Certificate IV or higher in 2008-09 to raise the qualification profile of Queensland's labour force, with a target of 14,000 additional places available by 2010.
 - \$6.6 million for a range of industry engagement models that promote industry leadership of skills formation and skilling solutions.
 - \$17.1 million to create 4,250 additional trade training places in 2008-09 to help meet the demand for skilled tradespeople, with a target of 17,000 extra places available by 2010.
- \$186.5 million to develop the skills of apprentices and trainees and maximise their contribution to the Queensland economy.
- \$2.1 million for the second year of a \$6.2 million three-year statewide investment that will increase the number of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs) commencements to 12,400 by December 2009.

Better teaching, better learning

Student achievement is the result of a number of factors, including the quality of school or TAFE teachers; a relevant, world's-best curriculum; and up-to-date technology. This Budget will help to develop clever, skilled Queenslanders with:

- up to 321 full-time equivalent staff, of which 270 are teachers and teacher aides, to meet enrolment growth in Queensland state schools, to support students with disabilities and assist other initiatives.
- more than \$47 million for professional development to enhance the capability of staff, including TAFE and school teachers.
- implementation of the *Believe Achieve Succeed* strategy to improve educational and life outcomes of the state's most disadvantaged students through allocation of 10 full-time equivalent staff to undertake a range of initiatives including a pilot of multi-disciplinary intervention teams in designated locations, and delivery of enhanced teacher induction and professional development.
- \$10 million for the second year of a four-year, additional \$35.6 million program for up to 15 hours of intensive literacy support for upper primary students requiring extra assistance.
- \$3 million in 2008-09 for stage two of the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCAR) and national literacy and numeracy assessment programs in Queensland schools as part of the four-year, \$12 million commitment.



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- \$6.4 million in the second year of the \$30 million, four-year commitment to continue the transition to Australian Sign Language (Auslan) as the language of instruction for Deaf/hearing impaired students who use signed communication.
- more than \$100 million in *Smart Classrooms* initiatives, to improve student, teacher and parent access to learning materials electronically anywhere, any time.
- \$20 million for the second year of the four-year, \$70 million *Computers for Teachers* program to deliver a classroom computer and associated professional development for every permanent state school and TAFE institute teacher working two days or more a week.
- \$2.5 million in the second year of the \$10 million, four-year Indigenous Education Support Structures pilot to improve student achievement in five clusters of state schools and funding to non-state schools to support this initiative.
- \$1.5 million in the third year of the four-year, \$5.5 million commitment to support students (and their families) from the Torres Strait, Cape York and Palm Island while they study away from home at rural and urban secondary schools.



Improving Indigenous futures

In 2008-09 the department will continue to build better outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders. Regional plans are being developed in partnership with Queensland's Indigenous communities to improve education and training. This Budget will deliver:

- \$24.4 million over two years in additional funding for the pre-Prep early learning program in 35 Indigenous communities. This increases the total funding for the program in 2008-09 to \$20.7 million. The total investment over the next two years (2008-10) is \$40.7 million.

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Thriving creative communities

Investing in arts contributes to the state's cultural life, celebrates community and creativity, and delivers socio-economic returns. The Government is committed to strengthening a diverse arts and cultural sector with:

- \$118.4 million for the state's leading cultural institutions, including \$50.9 million for the State Library of Queensland, \$27.6 million for the Queensland Art Gallery, \$20.2 million for the Queensland Museum, \$8 million for the Pacific Film and Television Commission, \$9.1 million for the Queensland Performing Arts Trust and \$2.6 million for the Queensland Theatre Company.
 - \$10 million to Queensland's major performing arts organisations to fund the Queensland Ballet, the Queensland Theatre Company, the Queensland Orchestra and Opera Queensland to create, present and tour quality productions and programs.
 - \$34 million to continue the 2007-09 program to improve disability access at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) and refurbish the Lyric Theatre, Concert Hall and public spaces at QPAC.
 - \$9.6 million in Queensland's small-to-medium arts sector to ensure a balance of diverse, strong organisations that are committed to engaging with all Queenslanders.
 - \$7.9 million to continue the two-year transformation of the Cultural Centre auditorium into a creative ideas and technology centre, The Edge, for young people aged 14 to 25.
 - \$4 million in the second year of the \$12 million art+place public art program to create innovative and engaging public spaces across the state.
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- \$2.7 million in the second year of the \$10.7 million, four-year Backing Indigenous Arts program to support economic, social and creative opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in Far North Queensland.
 - \$1.3 million in additional annual funding for Queensland's signature festivals, the Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival and Out of the Box.
 - \$1.1 million as Queensland's contribution under the second year of funding for the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, a \$9.3 million, four-year partnership with the Australian Government.



Queensland
Government

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