



Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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# Circular

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**FOR INFORMATION**

**To:** Board of Management  
Executive Directors

**From:** Bill Daniels

**Date:** 9 May 2007

**Subject:** **Federal Budget 2007 – ISCA Analysis**

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In Circular 103/07 ISCA sent the relevant DEST Budget media releases for the schools sector. The following is a summary of the Budget initiatives which affect the independent school sector.

## **Assistance for non-government schools in regional and remote areas.**

- \$121 million over four years commencing January 2008 for more than 400 regional and remote non-government schools.
- The funding comes in the form of a loading linked to general recurrent grants.
- The loading will be provided to schools classified under the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) ABS classification which classifies areas as “Moderately Accessible”, “Remote” and “Very Remote”.
- Eligible non-government schools will receive an additional 5 percent, 10 percent and 20 percent of their SES entitlement respectively.
- ISCA is in close consultation with DEST on the detail of the initiative, particularly in relation to implications for schools which are funding maintained.
- DEST is still working on the list of schools and ISCA will send the list to AISs as soon as it becomes available, this could take a week or two.
- The next schools funding agreement will require state and territory governments to provide an equivalent increase in funding for regional and remote government schools from 2009.

## **National Literacy and Numeracy Vouchers**

- \$457.4 million over four years for the *National Literacy and Numeracy Vouchers* programme.
- This initiative will provide a \$700 tutorial voucher per child to parents whose children have not achieved minimum standards in reading, writing and mathematics in Years 3, 5, and 7 from 2008.

- Following the introduction of Year 9 tests in 2008 vouchers will be extended to eligible Year 9 students from 2009.

### **Rewarding Teachers**

- \$101.7 million over four years for a new *Australian Government Summer Schools for Teachers* programme to provide additional professional development and improve the quality of teaching in the major disciplines of Literacy and Numeracy, English, Maths, Science and Australian History.
- 1,000 teachers from government and non-government schools will be selected annually to participate in a ten day residential programme.
- The 4,000 teachers selected over the four years 2008-2011 will also receive a direct \$5,000 bonus on completion of the programme.
- Teachers will be recommended for participation by their school and selected by the Australian Government.
- The first Summer School will be held in January 2008.

### **Rewarding Schools**

- \$53.2 million over four years for the *Rewarding Schools for Improving Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes* initiative to allow schools that can demonstrate sustained improvements measured against student literacy and numeracy achievement to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000.
- At least 300 schools expected to benefit.
- The initiative will commence after the 2008 national literacy and numeracy tests.

### **English as a Second Language – New Arrivals**

- An additional \$127.8 million over four years for intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) tuition for students entering Australia under the Humanitarian Programme.
- Will double the rate of per capita funding for newly arrived humanitarian students.

### **Improving School Standards**

From 2009 the Australian Government will require that government and non-government education authorities focus on improving school standards and quality including through;

- introducing national teacher training and registration standards to improve the skills of new teachers,
- core national standards for curricula in key subjects for Years 10, 11 and 12,
- including external assessment as part of Year 12 certificates and common descriptions of levels of achievement,
- introducing greater principal autonomy in school management and teacher employment arrangements (including the ability for principals to appoint and dismiss teachers),
- introducing performance-based pay for teachers to encourage and reward excellent teaching,
- reporting school and student performance against national benchmarks (including literacy and numeracy results), with school and state comparisons.

### **Investing in Our Schools Programme**

- \$195.9 million over two years to extend the *Investing in our Schools Programme* and provide further support over and above that provided to the 7,600 government and non-government schools
- It is ISCA's understanding that this is not additional to previously announced funding.

### **Australian Technical Colleges**

- \$83.6 million over five years to establish three additional Australian Technical Colleges in northern Perth, southern Brisbane and the greater Penrith region of NSW.

**Infrastructure funds for non-government boarding schools (Indigenous funding)**

- \$50 million to assist non-government boarding schools, particularly those in remote and regional areas that accommodate Indigenous students.
- Funding will be targeted at boarding schools with demonstrated capacity to cater for Indigenous students (a minimum of 20 students per annum) to complete secondary schooling.
- Funds will be provided to and managed by relevant Block Grant Authorities (BGAs)
- An additional \$15.3 million will be available over two years to existing boarding schools which cater for significant numbers of Indigenous students.
- This additional funding is for urgent upgrades to accommodation facilities.

**Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme**

- \$36 million to expand the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme from the current 250 scholarships to 1,000 over four years.

Bill Daniels  
**Executive Director**