



Australian Government



# Building the education revolution

## Secondary schools

### Building the Education Revolution in secondary schools

The Australian Government will deliver a \$14.7 billion boost to the Education Revolution over the next three financial years. The Building the Education Revolution (BER) begins this year and provide new facilities and refurbishments in schools so each of Australia's 9 540 schools can meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers.

Every Australian school will be able to access part of the Government's investment of \$987.2 million during the 2008–09 financial year, \$8.5 billion over 2009–10 and \$5.2 billion in 2010–11. The BER complements the existing and planned investments by the states and territories and non-government systems and schools.

This is a critical component of the Government's economic stimulus package, giving our schools the attention they so richly deserve. To ensure that BER has the greatest impact on job creation, it is essential that construction and maintenance work commences as quickly as possible.

The program builds on the Rudd Government's commitment to deliver a world-class education to all Australian schools.

### The three key elements of BER are:

- *Primary Schools for the 21st Century*: \$12.4 billion to build or renew large scale infrastructure in all primary schools, special schools, and K–12s (primary component), including libraries, halls and indoor sporting centres.
- *Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools*: \$1 billion to build up to 500 new science laboratories and language learning centres in secondary schools that can demonstrate both need and readiness and capacity to complete construction by 30 June 2010.

- *National School Pride Program*: \$1.3 billion to refurbish and renew existing infrastructure and build minor infrastructure of up to \$200 000, subject to the size of the school.

### Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools

\$1 billion is available for the building of new science and language centres for 21st century secondary schools.

Up to 500 schools will be funded to construct new science laboratories or language learning centres. Funding will be allocated on the basis of demonstrated need and provision of evidence that schools are ready and capable to have construction of the facilities completed within the 2009/10 financial year. Proposals will be subject to a competitive application process.

The investment in science laboratories and language learning centres will bring technology directly to students. It is essential to provide secondary students studying the sciences and languages with access to modern and cutting edge technologies in their own learning spaces. This will drive personalised learning approaches in an environment where students and teachers can respond to individual learning needs.

Access to this sophisticated infrastructure will ensure students are equipped with the resources to support the development of their skills to compete and prosper in a modern, globalised economy of the 21st century.

Sciences and languages are two subject areas in particular where the advances in modern technologies and infrastructure have had a significant impact on the interactive nature of teaching and learning in secondary schools.

### National School Pride Program

\$1.3 billion is available for *National School Pride Program*. All schools will be eligible to apply to state and territory education authorities and the Block Grant Authorities for funding through BER for small scale infrastructure building and refurbishment funding of up to \$200 000, subject to the size of the school. These projects could include: minor refurbishment of buildings, fixed shade structures, covered outdoor learning areas, green upgrades (water tanks), support for students with disabilities or special needs.

All Australian schools—primary and secondary, government and non-government, urban, regional, rural and remote—will be able to access funds for much needed small scale infrastructure and minor refurbishment.

The building of new school infrastructure and the refurbishment of existing ageing infrastructure over the next three years will not only improve Australia's education system, but it will have a major stimulatory effect on national and local economies.

School Size (FTEs)	Indicative Funding Caps
0 to 50	\$50 000
51 to 150	\$75 000
151 to 300	\$125 000
301 to 400	\$150 000
401+	\$200 000

### Building the Education Revolution today

BER will start immediately with the first round of funding expected to be paid by June 2009. Many projects under the National School Pride Program element will be able to begin almost immediately.

Minor infrastructure builds will be completed within 6–8 months, and major infrastructure builds such as libraries or multipurpose halls will take 15–18 months.

The building of new science and language centres will be fast-tracked to be completed by February 2010.

### Strengthening existing investment in schools

BER will build on and complement investment in the Education Revolution including the National Secondary School Computer Fund and Fibre Connections to Schools elements of the Digital Education Revolution, and the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

The program will be delivered through cooperation between federal, state and territory governments and the non-government school sector.

Government schools will be able to apply for funding through the state and territory governments and non-government schools through Block Grant Authorities from February 2009.

For more information visit

[www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au)