



DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION—FACT SHEET

MARCH 2009

The \$2 billion Digital Education Revolution is a critical part of the Rudd Government's Education Revolution and will provide secondary students in Australian schools with access to world-class information and communication technology (ICT).

The aim of the Digital Education Revolution is to prepare Australian students for further education, training and employment and to equip them with the skills they need to live, work and succeed in an increasingly digital world.

The Digital Education Revolution includes \$1.9 billion for the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Fund) to provide grants to eligible schools to help with the provision of new or upgraded ICT for secondary students in Years 9–12. The program also provides for online curriculum material and professional development for teachers.

A further \$100 million is committed to support the deployment of fibre connections to Australian schools, delivering broadband speeds of up to 100 megabits per second.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

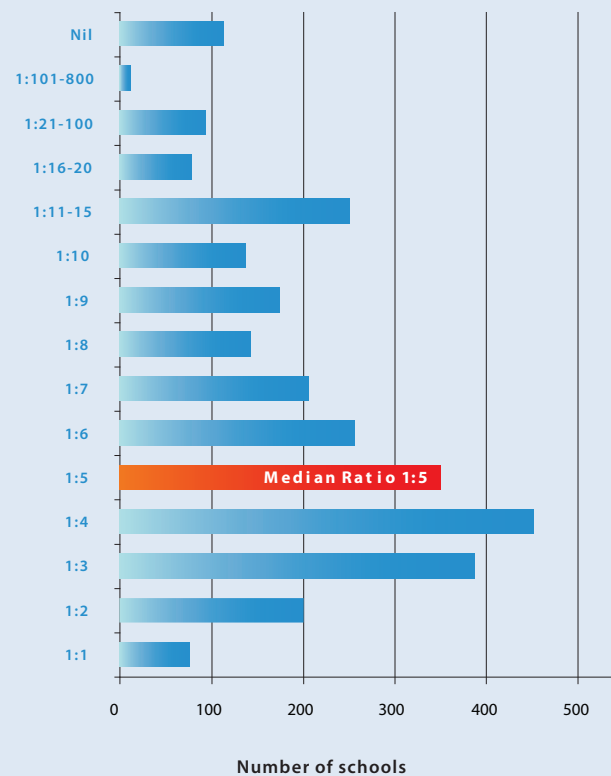
Preliminary steps

In January 2008 the Government conducted a nationwide preliminary survey of computers in secondary schools. 97 per cent of schools participated in the survey.

946 schools were identified as having a computer to student ratio of 1:8 or worse. These schools were targeted as being most in need of ICT investment for funding in Round One.

Results of the Preliminary Survey— February 2008

National Secondary School Computer Fund
Chart 1: Computer to Student Ratio for Schools
Years 9 to 12 before commencement of the Fund



Round One

On 12 June 2008 the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced that 896 secondary schools across Australia would receive 116 820 new computers through Round One of the Fund. The \$116 million in funding from Round One of the Fund will bring these schools to a ratio of 1:2.



Round Two

Round Two opened on 14 July 2008 and closed on 9 October 2008.

The results of this round were announced by the Minister of Education on 28 January 2009. This Round targeted secondary schools that had a computer to student ratio greater than 1:2. Funding of \$141.62 million will provide for over 141 000 additional computers in 1394 schools.

Round 2.1

The supplementary Round Two process opened on 10 December 2008 and closed on 11 February 2009 for those schools that were eligible to apply in Rounds One and Two but did not, or those schools that did not apply for the full number of computers. On 31 March 2009 the Hon Julia Gillard, MP announced that an additional 512 schools will receive funding of \$36 million to provide over 34,000 computers.

On-costs

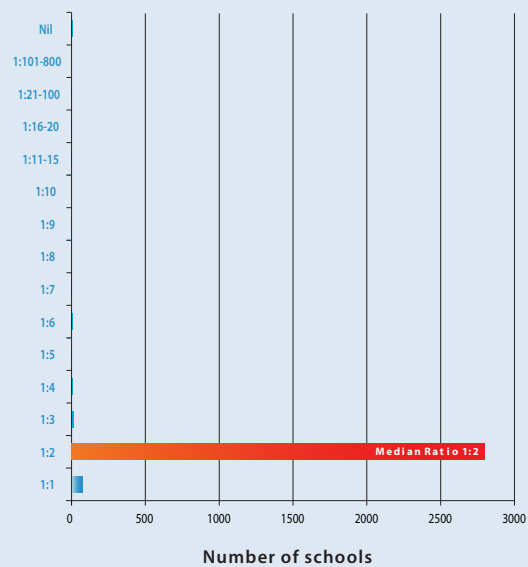
In November 2008 the Australian Government recognised that there are additional costs associated with the implementation of the Fund and announced additional funding of \$807 million to be provided to education authorities. Additional funding will be provided to cover the legitimate on-costs incurred for computers purchased through Rounds One and Two as well as future on-costs.

Students with disability

A more flexible approach has been adopted in order to increase access to ICT equipment for students with disability where technologies other than computers would be more useful. A total of 26 schools were approved for flexible funding of over \$300,000 in Round Two, and 228 schools were approved for flexible funding of approximately \$1,445,000 in Supplementary Round 2.1.

Results of Rounds One, Two and 2.1 Investment - March 2009

National Secondary School Computer Fund
Chart 2: Computer to Student Ratio for Schools
Years 9 to 12



Digital Education Revolution Strategic Plan and Implementation Roadmap advice

The Australian Information and Communications Technology in Education Committee (AICTEC) has contributed to the development of two strategic documents which guide the Digital Education Revolution (DER).

The DER Strategic Plan, "Success through Partnership", developed by COAG's Productivity Agenda Working Group, outlines a vision for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) enabled learning in Australian Schools. AICTEC's Advice on a DER Implementation Roadmap applies that vision to describe principles, dependencies and outcomes for the DER.



Australian Government

**Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations**

Together these two documents provide the broader context within which the various Australian, state and territory government DER-related initiatives are being implemented. The documents will assist educational institutions, their communities and the ICT industry to understand specific elements and jurisdictional initiatives within the broader DER context.

WHERE TO NEXT?

The aim of the first two rounds including the supplementary round is to bring all secondary schools across Australia to a computer to student ratio of 1:2.

The Australian Government will deliver funding to schools to achieve a 1:1 computer to student ratio for all Year 9–12 students by 2011.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Web: www.digitaleducationrevolution.gov.au

Email: digitaleducationrevolution@deewr.gov.au

Tel: 1300 363 079 Fax: 1300 367 806