



## Digital Education Revolution

### Background

The Australian Government's schools education reform agenda including national curriculum, assessment and reporting; transparency; teacher quality and other initiatives are focussed on developing national consistency and capability. The reach of each of these initiatives can be supported and extended by the Digital Education Revolution (DER). The DER aims to prepare students for further education, training and to live and work in a digital world. Through the DER, the Government is providing \$2.2 billion over six years to:

- provide for new information and communication technology (ICT) equipment for all secondary schools with students in years 9 to 12 through the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (the Fund)
- support the deployment of high speed broadband connections to Australian schools
- collaborate with states and territories and Deans of Education to ensure new and continuing teachers have access to training in the use of ICT that enables them to enrich student learning
- provide for online curriculum tools and resources that support the national curriculum and specialist subjects such as languages

- enable parents to participate in their child's education through online learning and access develop support mechanisms to provide vital assistance for schools in the deployment of ICT, and
- The DER offers a significant opportunity to create a platform for ICT in education and training that facilitates collaboration, resource sharing and transitions across traditional education sectoral boundaries and into the community.

### Progress

- All secondary schools have now had the opportunity to apply for funding through the Fund to reach the interim target ratio of 1:2 through the application based funding rounds. To date 53 percent of computers funded through the application rounds have been installed (October 2009).
- There will be no further application rounds. Funding is now being provided on a per capita basis to reach a computer to student ratio of 1:1 by 31 December 2011.
- Funding will be provided to state and territory education authorities bi-annually through a National Partnership agreement and to the non-government sector through Funding Agreements.
- The rollout of high speed broadband to schools under the DER will be coordinated with the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout. The implementation of the initiative will be

further developed following the review of regulatory arrangements and NBN implementation study.

- A robust evidence base to support the improvement of digital teaching and learning in Australian schools is being developed. Digital learning resources available in a number of key learning areas of the National Curriculum are being mapped and gaps identified.
- The DER is also supporting the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF-AU) which addresses the increasing complexity and cost of systems

integration by improving data connectivity and constraining integration costs.

### Further Information

Website:

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

Email:

[digitaleducationrevolution@deewr.gov.au](mailto:digitaleducationrevolution@deewr.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 363 079