



Australian Government

# Building the education revolution

## Special schools

### Building the Education Revolution in special schools

The Australian Government will deliver a \$14.7 billion boost to the Education Revolution over the next three financial years. Building the Education Revolution (BER) begins this year and will provide new facilities and refurbishments so each of Australia's 9540 schools can meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers.

Every Australian school will be able to access a 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. 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 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 during 2009/10.

- *Renewing Australia's Schools*: \$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.

### Primary Schools for the 21st Century—special schools

\$12.4 billion for the Primary Schools for the 21st Century package will deliver new infrastructure to all students at special schools.

Priority will be given to construction of new libraries and multipurpose halls. These buildings will provide students, teachers and the wider school community with access to a range of high quality resources, information and cutting edge tools to support learning and improve the quality and diversity of learning environments.

Schools with recently constructed, contemporary libraries and multipurpose halls will be permitted to apply for funding for refurbishment or the building of other facilities.

School Size (FTEs)	Indicative Funding Caps
0 to 50	\$250 000
51 to 150	\$850 000
151 to 300	\$2 000 000
301 to 400	\$2 500 000
401+	\$3 000 000

This initiative will also provide local communities with much needed out of school hours facilities, supporting recreational and adult learning groups and acting as a community hub for meetings and organisations throughout the country. These buildings will create community hubs that will enhance and nurture the wide and varied community relationships.

Indicative funding allocations have been determined according to the size of the school.

Decisions about final funding amounts for each school will be made by state and territory governments for government schools and Block Grant Authorities for non-government schools, in consultation with the Australian Government.

### Renewing Australia's Schools

\$1.3 billion is available for Renewing Australia's Schools. 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 Renewing Australia's Schools 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.

### 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.deewr.gov.au/buildingtheeducationrevolution](http://www.deewr.gov.au/buildingtheeducationrevolution)