



DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION - FACT SHEET

ROUND TWO – JANUARY 2009

The \$2 billion Digital Education Revolution is a critical part 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 \$2 billion Digital Education Revolution program includes \$1.9 billion for the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Fund) to provide grants of up to \$1 million 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, professional development for teachers and development of web portals for parents.

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 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
 Results of the Preliminary Survey - February 2008
 Chart 1: Computer to Student Ratio for Schools Years 9 to 12

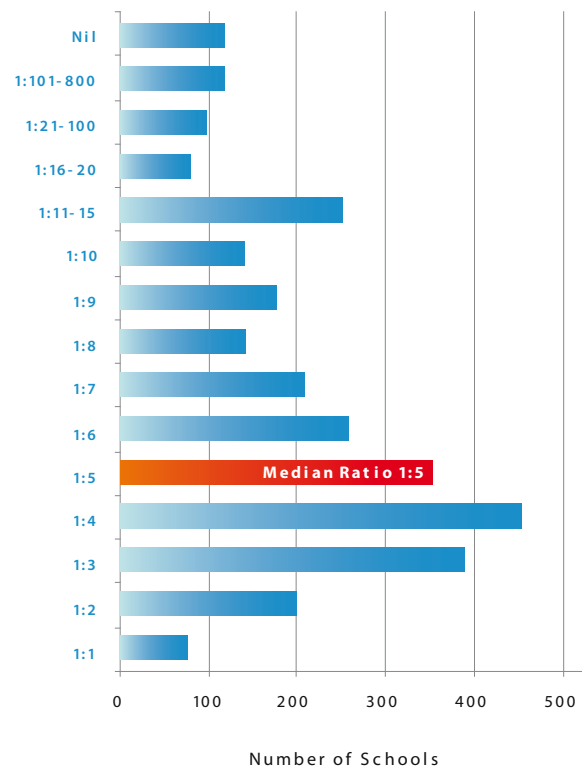


Chart 1: Computer to Student Ratio for Schools Years 9 to 12 before commencement of the Fund

Round One

On 12 June 2008 the Minister for Education 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.

This Round targeted secondary schools that had a computer to student ratio greater than 1:2. 1900 schools were advised to apply. On 28 January the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard, MP announced the outcomes of Round Two. Funding of \$141.62 million will provide for over 141 000 additional computers in 1394 schools.

Round 2.1

A supplementary Round Two process opened on 10 December 2008 and will close 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-costs

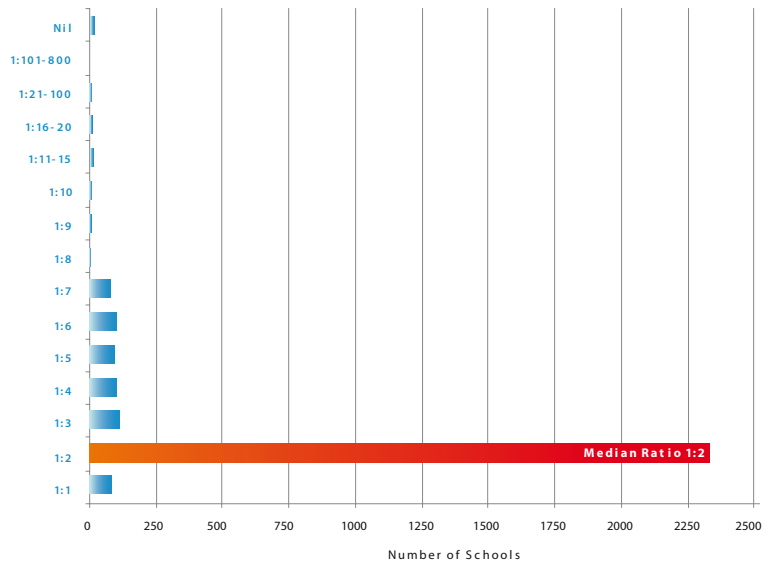
In November 2008 the Australian Government recognised that there are additional costs associated with the implementation of the Fund and announced additional funding of \$807 million to be provided to education authorities. Additional funding will be provided to cover the legitimate on-costs incurred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

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. In Round Two, 26 schools have been approved for funding of over \$300,000 for this purpose.

Results of Rounds One and Two Investment— January 2009

National Secondary School Computer Fund
 Results of the Rounds One & Two Investment - January 2009
 Chart 2: Computer to Student Ratio for Schools Years 9 - 12



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. The Government is consulting with government and non-government education authorities to determine the direction of future funding rounds.

Further information on the Fund is provided at www.digitaleducationrevolution.gov.au

Further Information

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