



Building the Education Revolution Guidelines

Secondary Schools have access to a \$1b Science and Language Centres fund for the building of science laboratories or language learning centres. However, this is a competitive program and only 500 secondary schools will be funded. Funding for round two of the Trade Training Centres in Schools will increase by approximately 40%, presumably with a corresponding increase in the number of successful applications.

Additionally, all schools will be able to share in the \$1.3b Renewing Australia's Schools fund, which will fund small scale infrastructure upgrades. Funding ranges from up to \$50,000 for schools of up to 50 students to \$200,000 for schools over 400 students. K-12 schools will have access to all these initiatives.

The Rudd Government wants the funds spent by 2010 which, for the larger scale projects, is a tight timeline and will favour schools already thinking about infrastructure upgrades as part of their strategic planning. Decisions about final funding for each school are to be made by the State Government, so it will be vitally important that we do not see repeats of the delays introduced by the State Government in previous 'Investing in Our Schools' and 'Computers in Schools' programs.

Every cloud has a silver lining - and so it seems the Global Financial Crisis is responsible for a significant injection of resources into education.

Little detail about the programs announced by the Rudd Government is available as yet, but Primary Schools are big winners in this round of funding initiatives. Primary Schools and Special Schools will share \$12.4 billion to construct libraries and multipurpose halls. Funding available for individual schools ranges from \$250,000 for schools of up to 50 students to \$3m for schools with over 400 students.

Governing Councils have a vital role to play here, particularly with the competitive grants, to ensure that there is broad community support for any project proposals. This funding boost should be considered a one-off opportunity - Governing Councils must consider carefully, which projects will provide lasting benefits to their school.

Rudd Mini-Budget Bonus For Schools