



Kelvin Thomson MP

Federal Labor Member for Wills

Darul Ulum College of Victoria receives Capital Grants and *Investing in Our Schools Programme* funding.

Mr Kelvin Thomson MP today celebrated with Darul Ulum College of Victoria the opening of new buildings and classrooms.

Darul Ulum College of Victoria received \$965,000 under the *Capital Grants Program* and \$544,850 under the *Investing in Our Schools Programme*. This funding has provided benefits to 715 students at Darul Ulum College of Victoria.

Non-government school communities were able to apply for funding for such projects as air-conditioning, shade structures, computer equipment and upgrades, musical and sporting equipment, as well as for large infrastructure projects.

The Rudd Government is committed to school infrastructure funding, providing over \$546.6 million during 2008 to the State and Territory Governments and school sectors. This funding will assist schools, particularly through the Capital Grants Program, which helps the most needy schools to construct and upgrade their school facilities.

The Government is also implementing many new initiatives including:

- The Trade Training Centres in Schools program will provide \$2.5 billion over 10 years to enable secondary schools across Australia to apply for funding of between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million for Trade Training Centres.
- The Government will invest \$1.2 billion over 2008-2012 in the *Digital Education Revolution* to improve secondary school student access to ICT and equip them for the jobs of the future.
 - The Minister announced the outcome of Round One of the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Fund) on 12 June. 896 secondary schools across Australia will receive funding for 116,820 new computers. These schools were identified as being most in need of new computers with a ratio of one computer for every eight students or worse. The \$116 million in funding from Round One will bring these schools up to a ratio of 1:2. Round Two applications will open on 14 July, allowing all remaining secondary schools across Australia with students in Years 9-12 to receive computers to improve their computer to student ratio to the national benchmark of 1:2 by the end of the year.
- The Local Schools Working Together initiative will provide \$62.5 million over four years to construct shared facilities between government and non-government schools to support the construction of approximately 25 shared school facilities between government and non-government schools, such as classrooms, music

and performing arts centres, sporting fields, computer and science laboratories, specialist language facilities, libraries and assembly halls.

The Rudd Government will also be assisting Australian families who receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A to help meet the costs of educating their children by providing a 50 percent Education Tax Rebate (ETR) for eligible education expenses (computers, Internet connection, text books and educational materials. This will mean:

- The maximum refund for each child attending primary school will be \$375 per child, per year; and
- The maximum refund for each child attending secondary school will be \$750 per child, per year).
- Information on how to access the ETR will be available in mid 2008.

The Rudd Government's Education Revolution will make Australia the best educated country with the most skilled best trained workforce in the world. It will revolutionise education investment, standards and outcomes.

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