

# STATE BUDGET 2020-21

## MINISTER FOR EDUCATION HON JOHN GARDNER MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 November 2020

### **Tradies get a boost as Marshall Liberal Government continues record investment in education**

Local businesses and tradies are big winners from the Marshall Liberal Government's record investment in education in this year's State Budget 2020-21, with a **\$37 million government school and preschool maintenance boost** set to deliver significant job opportunities for the sector.

The stimulus package will provide grants of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for government schools, and grants of \$30,000 for every government preschool, to engage local tradespeople to deliver priority maintenance works on their site.

The funding builds on the extra \$32 million already allocated to government school and preschool maintenance projects in 2020 over and above the Education Department's annual maintenance budget.

The Government's record \$1.3 billion education build will continue to provide a much-needed jobs boost for South Australians. More than \$1.1 billion of the total program's investment is set to be spent before the end of the 2021-22 financial year, providing an enormous boost to the state's economy at a vital time.

Tradies and small businesses are also set to benefit from additional investment measures in education in this year's budget, further underpinning how the Marshall Government is creating jobs, backing businesses and building what matters to South Australians.

Key investments in education as part of the State Budget 2020-21 include:

- An additional **\$11.6 million** stimulus for the non-government school sectors to improve school facilities, doubling the infrastructure funding previously made available to the sectors.
- A significant expansion of the non-government School Loans Scheme to **\$320 million**, providing interest free loans for the first five years of a loan term to support the construction of new and updated learning facilities.
- **More than \$1.5 million** to upgrade ICT cabling within every government preschool site, as part of the Government's \$120 million Digital Restart Fund. This will ensure that maximum benefit is achieved from the work currently underway to connect every government preschool site in South Australia to high-speed fibre optic internet connections.

Recurrent funding for education will increase by \$805 million in 2023-24 compared to 2019-20.

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The Government continues to deliver its \$130 million high-speed internet rollout to education sites across the state, which was expanded this year to include connecting all government preschools and improving internet security across all government schools.

\$10 million has also been allocated to upgrade the site of the new government high school in Goolwa, which will open in Term 1, 2022 with capacity for approximately 400 students when all year levels have full cohorts.

TAFE SA is being supported with \$99.6 million in additional funding over two years in response to lower forecasts for external revenue growth, as the public training provider continues to reform its operations to be more competitive in the vocational education and training sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding comes in addition to the \$135 million funding injection provided in the Government's two previous budgets.

Funding continues to be delivered for key school improvement measures including the Government's Literacy Guarantee, Languages in Schools initiative, entrepreneurial specialist programs, Aboriginal Education Strategy and Music Education Strategy.

Education Minister John Gardner said the Marshall Liberal Government was backing education while creating job opportunities.

"This budget further builds our record investment in education – the biggest by any State Government in South Australia's history," Minister Gardner said.

"With the vast majority of the Government's \$1.3 billion education build set to be delivered by June 2022, we are supporting thousands of construction jobs at a time when the economy so sorely needs them.

"Our \$37 million maintenance package will be welcomed by government schools and preschools across the state, who will have no shortage of projects to undertake with this funding, while also providing a massive boost for local businesses and tradies.

"Non-government schools will welcome the doubling of infrastructure funding, increasing the total funding available this year to \$23 million, providing more opportunities to improve school facilities and further support local tradespeople.

"The expansion of the School Loans Scheme, providing interest free loans for the first five years of the loan term, will support non-government schools to deliver significant upgrades to their facilities and will keep even more shovels in the ground for the construction sector in South Australia.

"We are continuing to support TAFE with an additional \$99.6 million, on top of the \$135 million already provided in our previous two budgets, as it reforms its operations to ensure it is meeting the needs of industry and continues to play a critical role in skilling South Australia's workforce as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are also continuing our major investment in technology with a \$1.5 million ICT cabling upgrade for government preschools that complements our state-wide high-speed fibre optic internet rollout, which has already been rolled out to nearly

Every government school in South Australia and is well on the way to reaching every government preschool and children's centre.

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“We are proud to be investing record funding into education as we continue the job of improving educational outcomes for students, transitioning Year 7 into high school and delivering a generational upgrade of schools across the state.”