



New South Wales

**The Hon Carmel Tebbutt**  
Minister for Education and Training

23 November 2006

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**THE IEMMA GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

NSW Minister for Education, Carmel Tebbutt, today said the NSW Labor Government would continue to work hard to provide parents and students in New South Wales with a world class public education system.

Speaking in Parliament today, Ms Tebbutt said that the NSW Labor Government had doubled funding to public schools and is now investing more per student than almost all other states and territories.

"This Labor Government is proud of it's achievements in Education which include:

- Delivering smaller class sizes in the early years;
- Employing an additional 2,200 classroom teachers and an extra 4,500 support staff;
- Boosting the pay of an experienced teacher by 78 per cent;
- Building 79 new schools, invested more than \$3 billion upgrading existing facilities, including 33 new gyms and 125 new halls, and more than doubled the school maintenance budget;
- Increasing annual funding for technology initiatives ten-fold, connected every school to the Internet and delivered almost 250,000 new computers;
- Establishing Australia's first teacher professional body – the Institute of Teachers – to oversee accreditation and teaching standards.
- Strengthening the State's world class end of school credential;
- Implementing a suite of sophisticated, world class testing programs;
- More than doubling the funding for students with special needs, including the provision of a teacher and teacher's aide in every special education class;
- Almost tripling funding for literacy and numeracy programs and over the next four will be investing \$616 million in targeted programs;
- Establishing the \$16 million Priority Action Schools Program to support the State's most disadvantaged students.

"What's more, the achievements have been unrelenting since Morris Iemma became Premier," said Ms Tebbutt.



**THE FACTS: LABOR'S STRONG RECORD OF INVESTING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

School funding	\$4.2 billion	\$8.0 billion	↑ 90%
Average funding per student	\$5,273	\$10,158	↑ 92%
Salary of an experienced teacher	\$42,016	\$72,454	↑ 72%
Full time teacher numbers	49,697	51,942	↑ 2,245
Average primary school class sizes	26.9	24.6	↓ 2.3
IT Budget	\$18 million	\$180 million	↑ 900%
Ratio of computers to students	1:20	1:5	
Special Education Budget	\$328.8 million	\$839.4 million	↑ 155%
Literacy and numeracy programs	\$53 million	\$154 million	↑ 190%
Support for socio-economically disadvantaged students	\$43 million	\$89 million	↑ 107%
School maintenance	\$88.6 million	\$226.8 million	↑ 156%
School capital works	\$202.9 million	\$485.5 million	↑ 139%
Schools with air-cooling	167	More than 800	
Schools with security fences	0	418	