



Investing in education and training

The McGowan Labor Government continues to invest in Western Australian schools to ensure all students, regardless of where they live, have the best possible opportunities to learn. We are delivering on this by investing in high-quality infrastructure, increasing support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs and boosting the overall education budget for the benefit of all students. This year's budget focuses on providing students with the best possible learning experiences to prepare Western Australians for the jobs of the future.

At a glance

The McGowan Government is increasing funding for WA education in the 2022-23 State Budget – delivering a total of almost \$6 billion for Western Australian schools. This includes new schools and facilities, support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs and keeping schools open and safe during the pandemic.

Our strong budget management provides the capacity to invest in a fair education system. In this year's State Budget, WA students will benefit from:

- \$595 million to be invested in new and upgraded school facilities in 2022-23;
- \$54.6 million increase in support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs;
- \$42.5 million for COVID-19 measures in schools, in line with health advice;
- \$2.5 million to support phonics skill development for Year 1 students; and
- \$263.7 million funding increase for delivery of education this financial year.

Investing in our schools

From 2023, the Education Adjustment Allocation will expand to support more students with additional learning needs in developing their literacy and numeracy skills. This will provide public schools with \$31.9 million in extra funding over the next four years.

The 2022-23 State Budget will also invest \$595 million in new and upgraded school facilities throughout Western Australia. This includes the expansion and upgrade of public schools in growing Perth suburbs:

- \$39.1 million for the second stage of construction works at Alkimos College;
- \$36.2 million for upgrades to Brabham Primary School;
- \$22.9 million for Harrisdale Primary School;
- \$19.1 million Anne Hamersley Primary School in Ellenbrook; and
- \$10.3 million Caversham Valley Primary School.

The McGowan Government invests about \$1.5 billion each year to provide access to a quality education for about 87,000 students, enrolled in more than 340 schools, in regional WA.

In addition to this, the McGowan Government is investing \$349.2 million in regional primary and secondary schools over the next four years for refurbishments, upgrades and new builds.

An additional \$33.8 million in funding will go towards maintenance upgrades to improve public schools.

Funding of \$3.8 million in 2022-23 and an additional \$5.5 million asset investment from the 2021-22 land acquisition program will secure three additional sites for future primary schools and a site for an education support facility.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, \$42.5 million has been provided to ensure schools can remain open and safe. This funding will support the continuation of enhanced cleaning programs in public schools, and maintaining mask and personal protective equipment supplies and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) distribution for all schools.

Supporting additional learning needs

As part of our work to improve education outcomes, our 2022-23 State Budget commits significant resources to new and expanding initiatives to support students with disabilities and additional learning needs. This includes:

- \$18.2 million investment in WA's in-demand Specialist Learning Programs for students with autism spectrum disorder will enable their expansion to eight additional schools;
- \$2.5 million for a new Year 1 phonics initiative to assess and support the development of students' phonics skills; and
- \$4.6 million will fund the implementation of the Students with Disabilities and Complex Behaviour Framework.

Investing in TAFE and training

The McGowan Government is providing more targeted training opportunities for Western Australians to take up quality jobs.

We continue to deliver our *Lower fees, local skills* initiative to keep TAFE fees low and annual fee caps across 210 high priority courses. This successful program is restoring and revitalising WA's TAFE sector after years of neglect from the former Liberal National Government.

This initiative has helped training enrolments grow to a record of more than 150,000 places and increased apprenticeships and traineeships by a massive 31 per cent last year.

Record course enrolments in TAFE courses in 2021 as a result of this initiative are helping to address the State's skills needs and prepare Western Australians for local jobs.

The 2022-23 State Budget focuses on building a skilled workforce for the future to support the McGowan Government's WA Jobs Plan and work to diversify the WA economy and create local jobs.

Training at a glance

The McGowan Government continues to invest in the training sector and deliver on election commitments to keep training affordable and accessible, provide new opportunities for Western Australians to reskill and find work in local jobs throughout the State.

The 2022-23 State Budget funds initiatives to meet skill shortages, informed by ideas generated from the Perth and Regional Skills Summits.

The \$76.5 million in training initiatives in the 2022-23 State Budget includes:

- \$38.4 million additional funding for Lower fees, local skills initiative;
- \$14.3 million to support training in WA's in-demand construction industry;
- \$11 million boost for defence industry's workforce;
- \$5.5 million to help mature-aged jobseekers and ex-offenders into jobs;

- \$4.9 million in support for Collie workforce transition; and
- \$2.4 million to attract international students to the regions to help address skills shortages.

The McGowan Government also continues to rollout the TAFE capital works program, with \$216 million committed to deliver state-of-the-art facilities providing high-quality, industry-relevant training across the State.

Retraining for the jobs of the future

The McGowan Government will invest \$11 million to further build WA defence industry's professional and para-professional workforce, which is estimated to need more than an additional 1,000 workers by 2027.

An additional \$4.9 million has been provided for the Collie Just Transition Plan, which includes the establishment of a new Jobs and Skills Centre in Collie and a TAFE Transition Team to support affected employees through career and training services.

A new \$5.5 million program will provide expanded jobseeker support to 500 mature-age jobseekers and pilot support for 100 ex-offenders to help them into employment and support their safe transition back into the community.

International Education

The McGowan Government has provided a massive \$41.2 million boost to support Western Australia's international education sector as part of the 2022-23 State Budget.

The additional funding has been allocated following extensive consultation with the sector, including a roundtable with the Premier, Minister for International Education and key stakeholders.

Priority areas include building a pipeline of future onshore international education students, reengagement of the international education agent network and providing financial support to assist the sector to recover.

The McGowan Government is also investing \$2.4 million in the Regional TAFE International Student Strategy, which responds to feedback received at the 10 Regional Skills Summits held across WA and aims to attract international students to live, work and study in regional Western Australia. This will help alleviate critical skill shortages being experienced by regional business in targeted occupations such as aged care, disability care, childcare and hospitality and tourism.

In addition, the McGowan Government's multimillion dollar Reconnect WA package includes support for the return of international students following the reopening of the international borders.