

**THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP**  
**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Minister for Education

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Minister for Social Inclusion

**MEDIA RELEASE**

20 May 2009

**Investing in community education and training  
for tomorrow**

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today invited community education and training providers to apply for funding under the \$100 million Investing in Community Education and Training program.

Investing in Community Education and Training is the third element of the Rudd Government's \$500 million Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training.

The Rudd Government announced the \$500 million Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training as part of the December 2008 \$4.7 billion nation-building infrastructure package to support Australia's economy.

This initiative will stimulate the economy by supporting jobs, whilst also investing in skilling Australia for a productive future.

The initiative recognises the unique value of community education and training and its role in providing thousands of Australians with pathways into further education and training or employment. This is the first time the Australian Government has made a major capital investment directly into the community education sector.

\$100 million in funding will develop or upgrade infrastructure, plant and equipment to maximise community education and training delivery.

The fund is open to eligible not for profit community education and training providers and consortia led by an eligible community education and training provider and will involve a competitive application process. The funding is for:

- small capital grants (\$50,000 to \$250,000 GST exclusive) to assist with minor construction, refurbishment and the purchase of equipment; and

- larger grants (\$250,000 to \$1.5 million GST exclusive) for major capital infrastructure developments or upgrades.

This builds on the first two elements of the Rudd Government's \$500 million Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training, Better TAFE Facilities and Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow.

Under the \$200 million Better TAFE Facilities element, all TAFEs across Australia are eligible to receive funding of between \$2 million and \$8 million to help meet immediate maintenance needs, small capital works and equipment and plant purchase.

Under the \$200 million Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow element, TAFE institutes and other eligible applicants have applied for competitive grants of up to \$10 million for the development, or upgrade, of infrastructure, plant and equipment to skill Australians for the future.

It is critical that we continue to invest in education and training in these difficult times to ensure Australians have the skills they need to participate in the workforce when the economy begins to recover.

The Investing in Community Education and Training guidelines are available online at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/TLCF/Pages/TLCF.aspx>

**Deputy Prime Minister's Press Office:** 02 6277 7758

**DEEWR Media:** [media@deewr.gov.au](mailto:media@deewr.gov.au) **Non-media queries:** 1300 363 079