



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

16/09/09

State's largest school construction program underway

A concrete pad laid at Mirrabooka Primary School today signifies the start of a \$1 billion construction program across WA public primary schools.

The pad, for a new \$750,000 library, is the first full-scale construction work undertaken as part of the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution Primary Schools for the 21st Century capital works funding.

Construction is also underway at Mirrabooka Primary School with a \$1.3 million undercover area, new canteen and art and music rooms.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the building program was the largest undertaken in WA public schools.

"This building program is a huge undertaking for our schools, which will benefit every region of the State," she said.

"The Department, along with the Department of Treasury and Finance Building Management and Works, has pulled out all stops to ensure construction begins at our schools as soon as possible and schools receive facilities that enhance student learning.

"It's a very exciting time for our schools."

Mirrabooka Primary School Principal Chris Brackenreg said the new facilities were a huge boon for the school, particularly after the number of classes at the school doubled in 2005 when the school established an Intensive English Centre.

"At the moment we don't have an undercover area, so our students and teachers have limited facilities in wet weather," Mr Brackenreg said.

"Similarly, art and music lessons are conducted wherever a teacher can find a free space and so having dedicated rooms will allow students to try new activities and teachers to plan a broader range of experiences.

"Built in the 1960s, our library is dated and small. A new library will bring us more in line with modern requirements for the latest in IT and other research facilities, and provide more space to work for our students and the parent groups who also use our library."

The Primary Schools for the 21st Century element of the Building the Education Revolution will fund \$1.06 billion of large scale infrastructure in WA public schools, including libraries, early childhood centres, classrooms and covered assembly areas.

Building the Education Revolution includes two more components in WA public schools:

- \$98 million in National School Pride funding for refurbishments and minor works; and
- \$34 million in Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century funding for new and refurbished secondary school science labs and language facilities.

The Department of Education and Training will spend an additional \$300 million of State Government funds to build 14 new schools over six years and an extra \$50 million on a four-year capital improvements program for WA schools.

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