

Schools Upgrade Fund – Capital Investments

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – EDUCATION AND SKILLS

| Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule | |
|--|--|
| Parties | <p>Commonwealth</p> <p>New South Wales</p> <p>Victoria</p> <p>Queensland</p> <p>Western Australia</p> <p>South Australia</p> <p>Tasmania</p> <p>Australian Capital Territory</p> <p>Northern Territory</p> |
| Duration | <p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 December 2027 or on completion of the initiative, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones.</p> |
| Purpose | <p>The Commonwealth is supporting the States to deliver capital infrastructure projects for government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades.</p> <p>Funding from Round 2 of the Commonwealth’s School Upgrade Fund (SUF) is being apportioned across states and territories based on need. As the measure seeks to improve school capital infrastructure, the distribution of funding is based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. each State and Territory’s proportional share of government schools ii. relative student need in each State and Territory, as reflected in average per-student funding attracted by its government school students under the Schooling Resource Standard. |

| <p>Estimated financial contributions</p> | <p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the States of \$215.769m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>States' individual shares of the Government School Capital Funding component of the SUF is set out in Table 1 below.</p> <hr/> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="416 405 1050 443">(\$ million)</th> <th data-bbox="1050 405 1214 443">2023-24</th> <th data-bbox="1214 405 1481 443">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 454 1050 492">Estimated total budget</td> <td data-bbox="1050 454 1214 492">215.769</td> <td data-bbox="1214 454 1481 492">215.769</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 504 1050 542">• NSW</td> <td data-bbox="1050 504 1214 542">68.025</td> <td data-bbox="1214 504 1481 542">68.025</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 553 1050 591">• VIC</td> <td data-bbox="1050 553 1214 591">48.191</td> <td data-bbox="1214 553 1481 591">48.191</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 602 1050 640">• QLD</td> <td data-bbox="1050 602 1214 640">40.408</td> <td data-bbox="1214 602 1481 640">40.408</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 651 1050 689">• WA</td> <td data-bbox="1050 651 1214 689">24.994</td> <td data-bbox="1214 651 1481 689">24.994</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 701 1050 739">• SA</td> <td data-bbox="1050 701 1214 739">17.121</td> <td data-bbox="1214 701 1481 739">17.121</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 750 1050 788">• TAS</td> <td data-bbox="1050 750 1214 788">6.487</td> <td data-bbox="1214 750 1481 788">6.487</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 799 1050 837">• ACT</td> <td data-bbox="1050 799 1214 837">2.456</td> <td data-bbox="1214 799 1481 837">2.456</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 848 1050 887">• NT</td> <td data-bbox="1050 848 1214 887">8.087</td> <td data-bbox="1214 848 1481 887">8.087</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 898 1050 981">Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td data-bbox="1050 898 1214 981">0.0</td> <td data-bbox="1214 898 1481 981">0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | (\$ million) | 2023-24 | Total | Estimated total budget | 215.769 | 215.769 | • NSW | 68.025 | 68.025 | • VIC | 48.191 | 48.191 | • QLD | 40.408 | 40.408 | • WA | 24.994 | 24.994 | • SA | 17.121 | 17.121 | • TAS | 6.487 | 6.487 | • ACT | 2.456 | 2.456 | • NT | 8.087 | 8.087 | Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions | 0.0 | 0.0 |
|---|---|----------------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|---|-----|-----|
| (\$ million) | 2023-24 | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated total budget | 215.769 | 215.769 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • NSW | 68.025 | 68.025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • VIC | 48.191 | 48.191 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • QLD | 40.408 | 40.408 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • WA | 24.994 | 24.994 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • SA | 17.121 | 17.121 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • TAS | 6.487 | 6.487 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • ACT | 2.456 | 2.456 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • NT | 8.087 | 8.087 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Additional terms</p> | <p>1. Allocation of Funding by States</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Funding must be allocated to new projects based on demonstrated need, consistent with the Schools Upgrade Fund (Round 2) Guidelines at Appendix A (the Guidelines). b. The Commonwealth will conduct an expression of interest process through which public schools can nominate capital projects. The expression of interest process will open on 31 October 2023 unless otherwise agreed. c. States will assess all project applications received and allocate their share of funding to ensure that projects prioritise disadvantaged schools as identified by Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value (or comparable measures of disadvantage relevant to the jurisdiction). d. States will be the decision-makers on the distribution of funding for priority projects; however, the Commonwealth reserves the right to not endorse a project proposed by a State, and to request an alternative project. e. A minimum of \$250,000 (GST exclusive) of funding under the Schools Upgrade Fund must be committed for each project. f. The funding provided by the Commonwealth is additional to the existing capital works budgets of the States. Co-contribution is not a condition of funding. However, the States may combine their own | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

capital funding with the Commonwealth's contribution to support projects of varying sizes.

- g. Unless otherwise agreed, States will provide funding to schools to enable funding to be committed for expenditure (or spent) by the end of 2024.
- h. Further information on requirements in respect of the expression of interest process, including States' assessment processes, is set out in the Guidelines.

2. Announcements and recognition

- a. Following the assessment process, States must provide the Commonwealth with information on all projects that are proposed to be funded under Round 2 of the School Upgrade Fund.
- b. The Commonwealth will engage with jurisdictions to identify potential opportunities for joint announcements of projects between the Australian Government and the jurisdiction.
- c. For the purposes of Clause 21 of the Federation Funding Agreement – Education and Skills, the role of the Commonwealth in funding projects is to be acknowledged as set out in the Guidelines.

3. Acquittal of funds

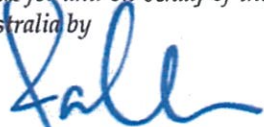
- a. States must provide an annual report detailing progress of capital asset projects and how money has been spent.

Table 2A: New South Wales – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$13.605m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2 | 12 April 2024 | \$54.420m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Secretary, NSW Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by



The Honourable Prue Car MP
Minister for Education and Early Learning

7 December 2023

Table 2B: Victoria – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$9.638m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2 | 12 April 2024 | \$38.553m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Secretary, Victorian Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Clare', written over the printed name and title.

The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

17 October 2023

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Carroll', written over the printed name and title.

The Honourable Ben Carroll MP
Minister for Education

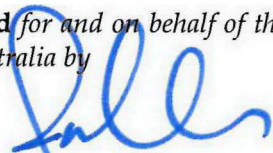
24 October 2023

Table 2C: Queensland – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|---|--|-----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$8.082m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$32.326m |
| Announcement of projects | Announcement of projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. • Acknowledgement of the Australian Government’s contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | Annual progress report (and final acquittal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Director-General, Queensland Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. • The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

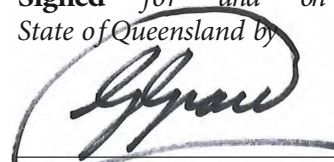
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by



The Honourable Grace Grace MP
Minister for Education

1 November 2023

Table 2D: Western Australia – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$4.999m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$19.995m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Director-General, Western Australian Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

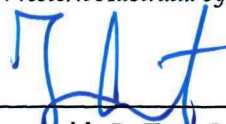
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by



The Honourable Dr Tony Buti MP
Minister for Education

October 2023

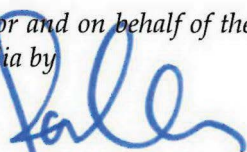
- 1 NOV 2023

Table 2E: South Australia – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|---|--|-----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$3.424m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$13.697m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Chief Executive, South Australian Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

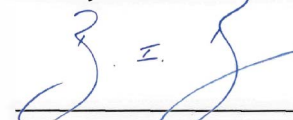
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by



The Honourable Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

6 November 2023

Table 2F: Tasmania – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|--|--|----------------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$1.297m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$5.190m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Secretary, Tasmanian Department for Education, Children and Young People, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

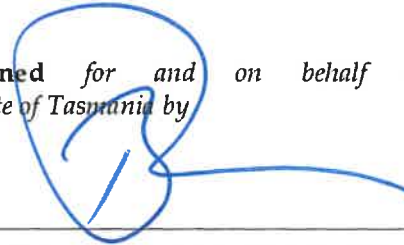
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by



The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Education, Children and Youth

~~October~~ 2023

15 December

Table 2G: Australian Capital Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|---|--|----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$0.491m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$1.965m |
| Announcement of projects | <p>Announcement of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government’s contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | <p>Annual progress report (and final acquittal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Director-General, ACT Education Directorate, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

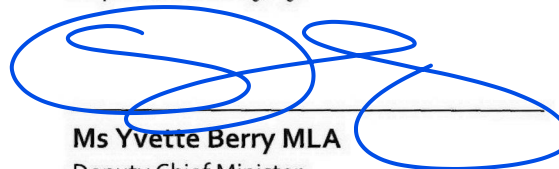
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by



Ms Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

24 October 2023

Table 2H: Northern Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

| Output | Performance milestones | Report due | Payment |
|---|--|--|----------|
| State facilitation of large-scale upgrades to government schools, such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades | Execution of this schedule | N/A | \$1.617m |
| Expression of Interest process | Permit the Commonwealth to undertake, commencing on 31 October 2023, an expression of interest process through which schools may nominate priority capital infrastructure projects of at least \$250,000. The EOI process will close on the 29 February 2024. | N/A | N/A |
| Progress report on projects | A short report outlining how Commonwealth funding will be allocated, comprising a brief description of projects proposed to be funded in the State, including school details and location, project description, capital expenditure amount (including any State or third-party contributions), and a brief description demonstrating how the allocation of funding is needs-based and prioritises disadvantage. | 2 April 2024 | N/A |
| Project agreement | Commonwealth endorsement of projects to be funded under Round 2. | 12 April 2024 | \$6.470m |
| Announcement of projects | Announcement of projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement, as agreed with the Commonwealth, of all Schools Upgrade Fund projects to which Commonwealth funding will be allocated. Acknowledgement of the Australian Government's contribution consistent with the Guidelines. | | N/A |
| Annual progress report (and final acquittal) | Annual progress report (and final acquittal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This annual report (1 January to 31 December) should provide a brief progress update on the status of each funded project over the previous calendar year. It should also include information on all income and expenditure in respect of each funded project and be signed off as a true and accurate record by either the Chief Executive Officer, NT Department of Education, or an equivalent authorised senior officer. The report must be provided by 30 June of the following year. The final such report – to be provided following completion of all funded projects – will constitute final acquittal of Commonwealth funding. | Annually, by 30 June commencing 30 June 2025 (until all projects are complete) | N/A |

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

13 October 2023

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern
Territory by



The Honourable Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Education

30 October 2023

Schools Upgrade Fund

ROUND 2 – GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES
OCTOBER 2023

At a glance

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Applications open: | 31 October 2023 |
| Applications close: | 11:59 pm AEDT, Thursday 29 February 2024 |
| Eligibility: | Government schools |
| Funding: | Minimum \$250,000 per project |
| Projects: | Larger scale capital infrastructure projects and associated costs |
| Guidelines: | Version 3 (11 October 2023) |
| Contact: | SchoolsUpgradeFund@education.gov.au |

Definitions

The definitions below are for the purposes of these Guidelines.

The Act: Refers to the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act)

Approved authority: Each school has an approved authority, which is the body approved by the Minister for Education under the Act. For a government school, the approved authority is the relevant state or territory government.

The department: Australian Government Department of Education

The Fund: Round 2 of the Schools Upgrade Fund

Goods and Services Tax (GST): The GST is a broad-based tax of 10 per cent on the supply of most goods and services sold or consumed in Australia.

School: Refers to a primary school, a secondary school or a combined school that is conducted by or on behalf of the government of a state or territory

Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA): Refers to a scale which allows for fair and reasonable comparisons among schools. ICSEA was created by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), and provides an independent and transparent indication of the socio-educational backgrounds of students at a school.

Minister for Education: Refers to the Australian Government Minister for Education

The Regulation: Refers to the *Australian Education Regulation 2023*

Purpose of the Guidelines

1. These Guidelines set out the policy and processes for the administration and delivery of the Round 2 of the Schools Upgrade Fund (the Fund).
2. Schools should read this document carefully before completing and submitting an expression of interest for funding.
3. These Guidelines and the application process do not create any legally enforceable undertakings (contractual or otherwise) between the Commonwealth of Australia and any applicant.

About the Fund

4. The Commonwealth will provide \$215.8 million to support capital infrastructure upgrade projects in government schools across Australia under Round 2 of the Schools Upgrade Fund. It will enable investment in large-scale capital projects such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades to government schools.
5. The fund is not administered as Commonwealth grants and will not be managed through Grant Connect. Further information about the process for applying under this round can be found online at <https://www.education.gov.au/schools-upgrade-fund>.
6. Round 2 of the Schools Upgrade Fund will be delivered in partnership with state and territory education departments. The department is responsible for the overall administration of the Fund, with projects endorsed by the Australian Government Minister for Education based on advice from by state and territory ministers for education.
7. Individual schools will apply for funding and deliver projects, together with their state or territory government, as applicable. However, it is the state or territory government as the approved authority for the school, as defined under the Act and the Regulation, which has responsibility for the school and accountability for the use of any funding paid.

Funding available

8. A total of \$215.8 million will be allocated to state and territory governments for projects at schools whose applications are endorsed by the Minister for Education.
9. In addition to funding provided through the Schools Upgrade Fund, the total cost of the project may include funding contributions from the school or the relevant state or territory.
10. States and territories are required to nominate the total cost required to deliver each of the proposed projects.
11. Where applicable, the total cost should include any project management and contingency costs, or similar costs, that will be funded by the Schools Upgrade Fund. States and territories may use up to 1 per cent of their funding allocation to meet administration costs.
12. Acknowledging the cost for some projects may change prior to completion, states and territories may reallocate Round 2 funding across their suite of projects as required, including allocating underspends to new projects.

13. The Commonwealth will not provide any funding additional to the \$215.8 million available under the Fund.
14. All funding amounts are exclusive of GST.

Eligible schools

15. Round 2 of the Fund is open to all government schools that attracted Commonwealth recurrent funding through an approved authority for 2023 under the Act.
16. To be eligible for funding, the school must anticipate continuing to operate in 2024 (for example, a school would be ineligible if it is closing at the end of 2023 or will have no enrolled students in 2024).
17. The school must have at least one enrolled student at the time of submitting an application.
18. Government schools that received funding through Round 1 of the Schools Upgrade Fund – the Targeted Round or the Open Round – are eligible to apply for funding under Round 2 of the Fund.

Eligible project activities

19. The relevant state or territory department of education for the school must support the application. Schools must engage with their approved authority (their state/territory local department of education) to ensure they have their support.
20. Large-scale capital projects such as new facilities, major refurbishments and upgrades are in scope. Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):
 - building or upgrading facilities essential to support student learning and/or wellbeing, other subject-specific facilities (such as art facilities, music rooms, technical and applied studies facilities, sporting facilities etc.) or other critical school infrastructure
 - upgrading playground and outdoor learning facilities
 - for schools with a high proportion of ageing demountable buildings, replacing these with permanent structures or modern modular teaching spaces.

21. Funding is not available for:
- projects with a Commonwealth funding requirement of less than \$250,000 (GST exclusive)
 - projects that have commenced prior to the school receiving notification of approval from the department. Project commencement includes making financial commitments (for example, purchase orders placed or invoices received) for work involved in the project. Preliminary work undertaken by a school to prepare its applications (for example, research, scoping, obtaining costs or quotes) does not constitute project commencement
 - projects where the majority of use will be by overseas students or any other students who would not attract funding under the Act
 - projects that are principally for pre-primary education, being children below the prescribed state or territory school starting age
 - a facility that is not in a formal school setting (for example, an Early Learning Centre attached to a school)
 - expenses relating to security to obtain, or comply with, any form of loan, credit, payment or other interest
 - expenses relating to the preparation of, or in the course of, any litigation.

How to apply

22. Applications open on Tuesday 31 October 2023 and close at 11:59 pm AEDT on Thursday 29 February 2024.
23. Schools must submit an application to the department by 11:59pm AEDT on Thursday 29 February 2024. Schools must engage with their department of education during the EOI process to collaborate, identify priorities, and gain their support for the proposed project, including identification of the estimated costs of the project. Schools may only submit one (1) application for a Round 2 project for which a minimum of \$250,000 (Goods and Services Tax (GST) exclusive) of funding under the Schools Upgrade Fund will be applied.
24. Where a school is composed of multiple campuses, the school may only submit a single application to deliver a project that may be across multiple campuses.
25. All applications for Round 2 funding should be made via the online application form. The form can be accessed on the department's website at <https://www.education.gov.au/schools-upgrade-fund>.
26. Applications must be submitted by the School Principal, Deputy/Assistant Principal, Business Manager or equivalent. The person submitting the application form will also be the contact for all related queries.
27. Where schools have previously applied to their approved authorities (their state/territory local department of education) for the same or similar project via another program, schools may refer to this project in their application.

28. Schools that are unable to apply via the online application form should contact the department at Schoolsupgradefund@education.gov.au to discuss alternative options to submit an application form.
29. If an application form is submitted in error, or with any inaccurate information that a school would like to rectify, the school should contact the department at Schoolsupgradefund@education.gov.au.
30. If a school experiences any technical errors in submitting an application form or requires assistance, it should send a screen shot of the error and a description of the problem to the department at Schoolsupgradefund@education.gov.au.

Application assessment and prioritisation of projects

31. Once the application period closes, the department will undertake eligibility and completeness checks of the applications and ensure:
 - the school attracted recurrent funding under the Act in 2023 and is expected to continue to operate in 2024
 - the school has at least one enrolled student at the time of submitting the application
 - projects are eligible funding activities
 - the relevant state or territory department of education for the school has endorsed the project
 - the application confirms that funding for the project will be committed to be spent by 31 December 2024 or as otherwise agreed with the department.
32. Following the initial check, the department will provide all applications received to the relevant state or territory department of education for consideration.
33. The relevant state and territory department of education will consider all eligible expressions of interest received from their schools and assess applications on the basis of need.
34. Based on these assessments, state and territory ministers for education will identify projects for funding in their jurisdiction.
35. Projects will be prioritised with reference to key indicators of disadvantage, including:

- projects that support schools with a low Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value relative to the jurisdictional median
 - eligible projects for schools that have a high proportion of students experiencing educational disadvantage and that have not received significant capital funding in the past two years (that is, projects valued at \$250,000 or more in 2022 or 2023)
 - projects that support schools that cater to disadvantaged students, such as:
 - special schools
 - special assistance schools or
 - majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools.
36. States and territories will make funding decisions using the information from the expression of interest process, local capital investment priorities, and any other information available.
37. Identification of projects to be funded will depend on, among other things:
- the number of eligible applications received
 - the amount of available funding in each jurisdiction
 - characteristics of school disadvantage and
 - the relative demonstrated need for funding for the proposed priority project.
38. States and territories will be the decision-makers on identifying successful projects however the Commonwealth reserves the right to not endorse a project proposed by a state or territory, and to request an alternative project.
39. State and territory departments of education will notify schools of the outcome of all project applications. State and territory departments of education will also provide advice to schools regarding commencement of approved projects.

Managing funding

Payment of funds

40. Funds will be paid by the Commonwealth to state and territory governments in accordance with the terms agreed under the relevant schedule to the *Federation Funding Agreement – Education and Skills* (the Schedule). State and territory governments may use up to one per cent of the total funding for the administration of the Fund and will ensure all other funds are used on approved projects.
41. The Commonwealth Government will not own any assets funded through the Fund. Ownership will remain with the relevant state or territory government.

Funding conditions

42. In order for state and territory governments to comply with their obligations under the Schedule, they must, among other things:

- a) spend the funding only on the approved project(s) and its associated costs (with the exception of up to 1 per cent of total funds which may be used for administration of the Fund)
- b) spend, or commit to spend funds received, including any interest earned, on approved projects by 31 December 2024, unless otherwise agreed with the department
- c) ensure that the project is completed to a satisfactory standard, and within a reasonable time
- d) ensure that the project complies with any relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws and requirements of any Commonwealth, state, territory or local authority
- e) keep full and accurate records in a form that will permit comprehensive information to be provided to the Commonwealth if required
- f) meet the Commonwealth recognition requirements for the Fund (see 'Recognition Requirements' section).

Varying and cancelling projects

- 43. In exceptional circumstances, a school may seek a variation to their approved project scope or timeframe or to cancel the project. In this instance, schools should contact their relevant department of education.
- 44. Schools may not seek additional funds through the Schools Upgrade Fund, including where implementation costs increase above the originally approved amount.
- 45. If a project for which funds have been paid is subsequently cancelled, and it is not reasonably possible to apply the funds to another project, the funds allocated to the cancelled project will be offset from future payments to the approved authority.

Administration and reporting

- 46. Schools or their approved authorities are required to provide an annual report to their relevant state or territory department of education detailing a brief progress update on the project status and include all income and expenditure in respect of the project.
- 47. The financial acquittal of funds paid will be completed by the relevant state or territory department of education. Where applicable, acquittal documentation will clearly indicate how cost savings realised for a project(s) have been applied to the jurisdiction's other Round 2 Schools Upgrade Fund projects.
- 48. Further information on the requirements will be provided in the written directions sent to schools by their state or territory authority at the time of project approval.
- 49. The department will undertake an evaluation of the Fund following the submission of all final acquittal reports.

Public announcement of funding

- 50. The Minister for Education or other Australian Government Members of Parliament may make public announcements about the Fund at any time and inform schools about the Fund.

51. Schools that receive Round 2 funding may be published on the department's Schools Upgrade Fund webpage.

Recognition requirements

52. Schools must meet the following Australian Government recognition requirements for the Fund, including:
- all publicity materials and announcements in relation to projects supported under the Schools Upgrade Fund acknowledge the Australian Government's contribution
 - relevant school communities are advised directly about assistance received from the Commonwealth by such means as school newsletters
 - for all facilities that receive support under the Fund, an official opening ceremony is arranged within six months of the physical completion of the project, unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth
 - the Commonwealth Minister for Education, or the Minister's representative, is invited to officially open all facilities supported under the Fund
 - the department, via the SchoolOpenings@education.gov.au inbox, is provided three proposed dates for school recognition ceremonies at least three months in advance of the proposed opening date of the facility
 - Commonwealth funding is acknowledged on plaques provided for facilities supported under the Fund, as follows:
 - installing on all completed projects building plaques that acknowledge Commonwealth funding, unless otherwise agreed by the department
 - where a facility is opened by a Commonwealth representative, the name of the person opening the facility should be included on the plaque
 - wording on plaques acknowledging Commonwealth funding should be of similar size and style to wording acknowledging other funding sources
 - including the Australian Government crest on all plaques
 - obtaining the department's prior approval of all plaque wording.

Records and information provision

53. Schools, or their approved authorities, must keep records relating to all income and expenditure of funds received in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and generally acceptable accounting practices. These records must be kept for at least seven years.
54. Schools, or their approved authorities, must keep adequate records to ensure financial accountability obligations are met.

55. Schools or their approved authorities must retain documentation to support claims made through the application process and the implementation of projects and could be called upon as part of a verification process to provide such documentation.

Conflicts of interest

56. A conflict of interest can be real (or actual), apparent (or perceived) or potential.
57. A conflict of interest could arise if an individual's personal interests' conflict with the proper use and management of Commonwealth funding provided through the Fund.
58. Schools and their approved authorities must ensure that they appropriately manage any conflicts of interest should they arise in relation to an approved project.
59. If a conflict of interest is not able to be appropriately resolved by the school (or its approved authority), it must contact the department in writing immediately.

Compliance with laws

60. Schools and their approved authorities must comply with any relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws and requirements of any Commonwealth, state, territory or local authority. These include, where applicable, relevant anti-discrimination laws and the:
- Building Code 2016
 - Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
 - *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth)
 - applicable Australian Standards
 - applicable planning and approval requirements for capital infrastructure.

Privacy and freedom of information

61. The department is subject to the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), and any information schools submit to the department will be subject to both of these pieces of legislation. Please also note that any documents a school submits to the department may be subject to freedom of information application.