

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS

FACT SHEET

DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION – NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPUTER FUND ON-COSTS

What is happening with the issue of on-costs?

The Commonwealth has recognised that there are additional costs associated with the implementation of the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the NSSCF). Additional funding will be provided by the Commonwealth to contribute towards meeting the costs of installation and maintenance of the new computers purchased through the Fund.

The Commonwealth will only provide funding for costs associated with the deployment of additional computers, that is computers deployed to move schools to a one-to-one computer to student ratio by 2011, and which are additional to those computers which were identified in the preliminary survey as being present in schools at the time of the audit.

How much extra funding will be provided?

\$807 million will be provided to contribute towards meeting the additional costs incurred by the States and Territories (the States) in implementing the NSSCF. A total of \$2,500 will be provided for each additional computer provided under the NSSCF (that is a combination of \$1,000 per computer provided under existing Digital Education Revolution funds and an extra \$1,500 provided under the new Commonwealth funding commitment). Computers provided under the NSSCF which are replacing those in place at the time of the audit will continue to attract funding of \$1,000 per unit.

The States have agreed to report on their progress toward reaching a 1:1 student to computer ratio for Year 9 to 12 students; and to pass on the non-government sector share of these funds.

What about schools that did not apply in Round Two?

The aim of Round One and Round Two of the NSSCF was to bring all schools in Australia to a 1:2 computer to student ratio. Schools which have not applied under Round One or Round Two for any reason, including uncertainty over the issue of on-costs, will be given an opportunity to apply under a supplementary Round Two process. The Commonwealth will provide funding to cover the on-costs associated with the deployment of all additional computers provided under Round One and Round Two of the NSSCF.

The share of additional funding provided to education authorities under the new Commonwealth funding commitment will be determined by the actual number of additional computers provided under Rounds One and Two, including the supplementary Round Two process.

At the conclusion of Round Two, including the supplementary Round Two process, all schools in Australia will have been provided with the opportunity to obtain funds to bring them to a 1:2 computer to student ratio, including funding to assist with addressing the on-costs associated with deployment of additional computers.