



The Fijian Government Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

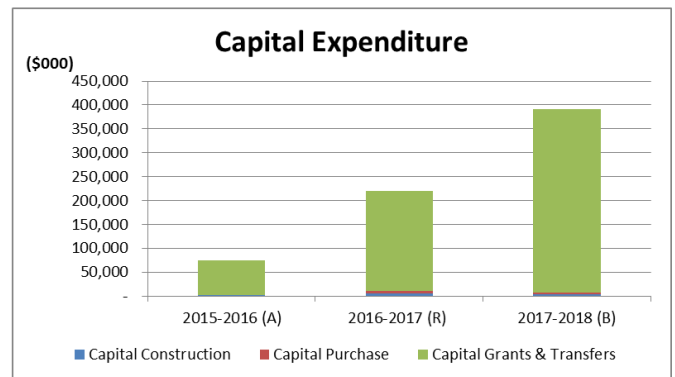
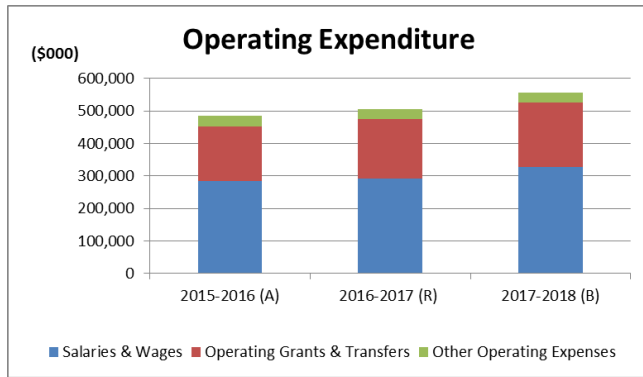
The Fijian Government upholds education as a key pillar of sustainable development and the most effective pathway to improve the nation's social capital and create a more level playing field in Fijian society. The Ministry of Education is responsible for ensuring that Fiji's young people have equitable access to high quality education at all levels of the Fijian education system.

Over the past decade, consistent and targeted investment in the education of Fijian students has led to the achievement of universal primary education in Fiji and given an unprecedented number of Fijian children access to secondary and tertiary education. The Ministry of Education will continue to formulate policy solutions to improve outcomes for Fijian students, with the aim of developing a capable workforce for Fiji with skills that are relevant in the global marketplace.

The Ministry of Education will also continue to carry out work to rehabilitate and reconstruct schools that were damaged in TC Winston. All rehabilitation work will be carried out to a standard that boosts the resilience of Fiji's schools to extreme weather events, given the projections that such events are expected to become more frequent and more severe.

A total of **\$964.4 million** has been set aside in the 2017-2018 Budget specifically for the education sector, of which **\$490.1 million**¹ is allocated to the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts, **\$107.0 million** for Higher Education Institutions, **\$196.4 million** for various scholarships and loans administered by the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board, **\$170.0 million** to continue the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools damaged by TC Winston and **\$850,300** as a grant to Hilton Special School. The graphs below show the trend in expenditure for the entire education sector.

¹ Including VAT of \$3.2 million



The increase of **\$223.8 million** in the education sector's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- an increase in salaries for teachers and staff of the Ministry as a result of the Job Evaluation Exercise conducted as part of Civil Service Reforms;
- an increase to fund 250 additional teaching positions (200 in Primary Schools and 50 in Secondary Schools);
- an increase to fund the next stage of the Literacy and Numeracy programme for primary schools, due to the completion of the Access to Quality Education Programme by DFAT, Government of Australia;
- continued work to rehabilitate schools damaged by TC Winston and improve their resilience to severe weather events;
- a dramatic increase in funding for TELS to realise the aspirations of Fiji's young people to attend institutions of higher learning; and
- new investment in the upgrade of various facilities that have been identified as important to promoting and preserving Fiji's unique cultural heritage.

New Initiatives

- \$100,000 is allocated for the Library Scheme for Special Schools. Reading resources such as braille books, audios, big print and hardboard non-fiction and fiction books will

be provided to Special Schools and public libraries for use by students with special needs.

- \$850,300 is allocated for the Early Intervention Programme for Hilton Special School to support infrastructure development and other operations of the school.
- \$2.0 million is allocated for the Building Grant for Resilient Schools Programme which will strengthen the resilience of schools that have been impacted or are at-risk to landslides and flooding. Lutukina Primary School in Qamea Island will be prioritised in this financial year.
- \$2.75 million is allocated for the upgrading of Non-Government Junior Secondary Schools. Jeremiah College (Tacirua) and Magodro Junior Secondary (Ba) have been prioritised in this budget cycle.
- \$850,000 is allocated for the construction of a 4x1 temporary classroom block for Sigatoka Methodist College to immediately address overcrowding.
- \$500,000 is allocated to complete the preliminary works for the construction of a new complex for the College of Business and Tourism at the FNU Campus in Nasinu to accommodate increasing student enrolment.
- \$1.8 million is allocated to upgrade and renovate FNU's Pacifica Dental Clinic.
- \$90,000 is allocated for the upgrading and renovation of Yadua Taba Crested Iguana Sanctuary.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Increasing access to early childhood education to build stronger educational foundations for Fijian children through:
 - Early Childhood Education Programme: a subsidy towards the tuition fees of students who enrol in registered ECE centres (\$2.1 million).

- Improving access to high quality primary and secondary education through:
 - Free Tuition Grant Programme: funds the free tuition grant for students from Year 1 to Year 13 (\$66.4 million).
 - Location Allowance: funds location allowances for primary and secondary school teachers that teach in rural and remote schools. The allocation has increased due to a rise in the number of teachers (\$10.2 million).
 - Vocational Grants: funds the free tuition grant for students enrolled in vocational centres that are attached to secondary schools (\$1.25 million).
 - Bus Fare Assistance Programme: the bus fare subsidy for all eligible students will continue. More than 95,000 students in Primary, Secondary Schools, as well as Technical College will continue to benefit from the programme (\$20.0 million).
 - Teachers Salary to Non-Government Primary and Secondary Schools: involves the recruitment of 250 new teachers for non-government primary and secondary schools that require additional teaching capacity. Prospective teachers will serve a one-year probation period before being offered permanent positions. Existing teaching education courses will be reviewed as part of this programme to ensure that new graduates receive adequate qualifications (\$5.6 million).
 - Free Milk Programme: supplies 250ml of milk to Year 1 students across the country each school day. Around 21,254 Year 1 students have benefitted from this programme as of Term 2, 2017 (\$3.57 million).
- The rehabilitation and development of education-related infrastructure through:
 - Bau Central College: covers the construction of the new school, which will be completed by January 2018 (\$1,287,508). It also covers the procurement of

necessary furniture, equipment and teaching aids to ensure the school is ready to receive its first students in 2018 (\$252,631).

- Nailou Infant School (Macuata): Funds will cater for the completion of construction work for the school (\$476,434).
- Cyclone Rehabilitation: continues the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools damaged during TC Winston to raise the standard of school facilities to better withstand severe weather events (\$179.9 million).
- Maintenance and Upgrading of Schools and Institutional Quarters: upgrades Government schools that have been identified for repair works, including Adi Cakobau School, Labasa College, Vunisea Secondary and Sila Central (\$1.0 million).
- Water Tanks: distributes and installs water tanks in 50 primary schools and 43 secondary schools in the next financial year. The schools have been identified based on vulnerability to water shortages (\$420,685).
- Boat and Outboard Engine: schools that are only accessible by waterways will continue to receive boats and outboard motor engines. 38 schools have been identified by the Ministry to be assisted in the following education districts: Cakaudrove (5), Macuata/ Bua (3), Nadroga/Navosa (4), Yasawa/Lautoka (1), the Eastern Division (24) and Nausori District (1) (\$450,000).
- Technical Colleges: funds Government's investments in the upgrading and equipping of the 13 technical colleges around the country to ensure that coursework is taught effectively to students. This project covers the upgrade of buildings, construction of workshops and the installation specialised equipment (\$2,960,261).
- FNU Labasa Campus: covers the construction on Building A of the new FNU campus in Labasa in the Naiyaca Subdivision which is set to begin this financial year (\$6.0 million).

- Veterinary Laboratory, Hospital and Instructional Livestock Shed: completion of consultancy and commencement of construction work for a new veterinary facility at the FNU campus in Koronivia, Nausori (\$3.0 million).
- Fiji Maritime Academy: funds the continuation of preliminary work on the Academy. Work is set to begin on a geotechnical study, engineering survey and the architectural design of the new building complex and the procurement of a fire simulator for the academy in Suva (\$2.5 million).
- Increasing the reach of special education programmes to benefit children with special needs through:
 - Programme for Children with Special Needs: funds support the recruitment of specialised teachers and the procurement of teaching aids, lenses, hearing aids, prosthetics and other specialised equipment to support the education of children who are blind or physically or mentally handicapped or who have other special needs (\$1,359,000).
 - Scholarship Scheme: provides scholarship for students with special needs to enrol in recognised tertiary institutions (\$200,000).
- Granting more of Fiji's young people the opportunity to pursue affordable higher education through:
 - Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Scheme²: Government has dramatically increased funding support for the TELS programme to support the higher education aspirations of Fijian students throughout the country. Scholarships will be offered to any student who is eligible for tertiary education, including in technical colleges. This funding has increased by \$80.6 million compared to the previous financial year (\$115.4 million).

² A full breakdown of the funding and restructure of TELS can be found within the Budget Information Kit.

- National Toppers Scheme: offers full scholarships to the top 630 students graduating from high school in Fiji Seventh Form Examination or equivalent foundation studies to enrol in the fields prioritised under the scholarship. The fields of study correlate directly with Fiji's current and projected human resource needs (\$32.2 million).
- Funding to other scholarships managed by the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Board, which include existing scholarship and overseas support schemes, will continue (\$4.4 million).
- Operating Grants to Higher Education Institutions: funds operational grants for higher education institutions. These institutions include FNU, USP, University of Fiji, CATD, Corpus Christi, Fulton College, Montfort Boys Town, Sangam Institute of Technology and the Vivekananda Technical Centre (\$92.7 million).
- Supporting the promotion and preservation of Fiji's unique culture and heritage through:
 - Levuka Heritage Site: covers rehabilitation works on the Levuka Heritage Site due to damage sustained during TC Winston (\$150,000).
 - Thurston Garden: designs for the rehabilitation are set to be completed and work will begin in the upcoming financial year. The rehabilitation will improve the drainage system, waterfront park and lighting throughout the gardens (\$698,950).
 - Fiji Museum: upgrades and renovates the Fiji Museum. Works will include landscaping, refurbishment of the interior and exterior, upgrading of the administration block and electrical rewiring (\$466,500).

Within the Ministry, the Department of Heritage & Arts is charged with safeguarding Fiji's rich cultural and natural heritage. The Department of Heritage & Arts has been allocated \$4.9 million in the 2017-2018 Budget, a 12.4 per cent increase from 2016-2017.