



Leadership for the West

5 May 2009

Victorian Budget 2009

LeadWest CEO, Anton Mayer, has welcomed the Brumby Government's budget announcement that focuses on looking after the State's most vulnerable citizens while also committing to rebuild or renovate 113 government schools, several of which are located in Melbourne's West.

"In the current economic climate, when families and businesses are feeling the pinch off the back of the global financial crisis (GFC), it is reassuring to see that the State Government is committing extra funds to assist those in our community that are most at risk," Mr Mayer said.

The social justice package includes \$150 million to recruit an extra 280 mental health workers, \$8 million to support people with autism and a further \$26 million for neighbourhood renewal centres to help low-income residents in the State's poorest suburbs.

In addition to the social justice package released today, the Brumby Government has allocated \$402 million to rebuild, renovate or extend every government school in the State. Not only will this deliver better schools it will also stimulate the economy and forge new job growth in the current tough economic climate.


"The two new schools outlined for the West is most welcomed and will better prepare our young people for the labour challenges of the future," Mr Mayer said.

While several transport and road infrastructure projects contained in the Victorian Transport Plan have been allocated funds in this budget, Melbourne's West continues to miss out on basic public transport upgrades. We still await the Federal Government budget, with the expectation that there will be much needed public transport funding allocated for Melbourne's West.

LeadWest is a peak advocacy body that was formed to provide leadership to the West in addressing its challenges and capitalising on its advantages, to be a representative voice for the West, especially to State and Federal Government. LeadWest's goal is to help the West realise its great potential as a dynamic and enjoyable place in which to live, work and visit.

For further information please contact:

Sarah Diamond
Project Manager, LeadWest

 0400 870 073

 sarah.diamond@leadwest.com.au