

Budget lets everyone down

ONCE again New South Wales has been let down badly by the State Budget.

This is the 14th Budget delivered since Labor was elected in 1995.

It's the 14th time a Treasurer has risen and claimed a "record" investment in State infrastructure and services.

It's the 14th time the citizens of NSW have been promised improvement in the basic services they expect of State government – such as schools, hospitals, transport and community services. The 14th time they have heard the same

promises of improvement – the same commitment to do better.

And – regrettably – more than 13 years of bitter experience with this Government means they know better than to raise hopes for delivery of Labor's promises.

Despite record revenues, the plans and pledges have failed to deliver the promised improvements.

After all this time, people across NSW know the biggest crisis they face is a continuing Labor deficit: the yawning gap

between what the government says and what families face every day.

It's this history – the history Labor is so keen to disown – that explains the public's lack of enthusiasm and scepticism about the Budget.

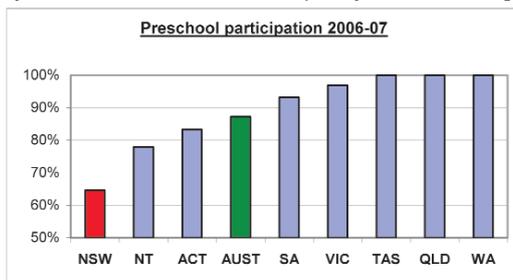
This year's Budget is no different to the previous 13 – more of the same, but heading in the wrong direction – high taxes, cost blowouts, and promises of urgently needed infrastructure funded by ballooning debt.

Davidson education boost

Preschool participation:

- Proportion of 4 year old residential population using State Government funded and/or provided preschool services immediately before the commencement of compulsory full time schooling

WA	100.0%
QLD	100.0%
TAS	100.0%
VIC	96.8%
SA	93.1%
AUST	87.2%
ACT	83.3%
NT	77.9%
NSW	64.6%

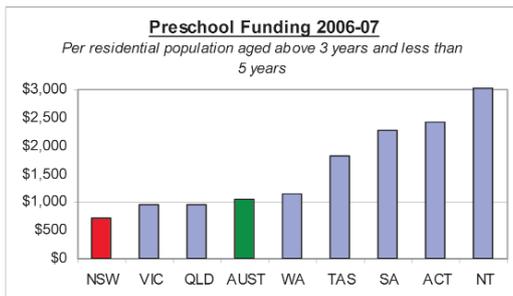


SOURCE: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2008, Part B Early Childhood, Education and Training, Chapter 3 Children's services, Attachment table 3A.11.

Preschool Funding:

- State and Territory Government real expenditure on preschools per residential population aged above 3 years and no more than 5 years

NT	\$3,018
ACT	\$2,423
SA	\$2,287
TAS	\$1,817
WA	\$1,140
AUST	\$1,061
QLD	\$954
VIC	\$954
NSW	\$726

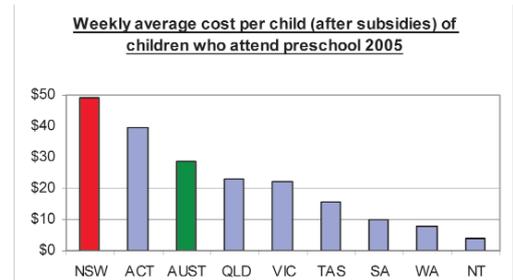


SOURCE: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2008, Part B Early Childhood, Education and Training, Chapter 3 Children's services, Attachment table 3A.5 and 3A.11.

Weekly cost per child:

- State and Territory Government average weekly cost per child (after subsidies) of children who attend preschool

NSW	\$49.20
ACT	\$39.60
AUST	\$28.60
QLD	\$23.10
VIC	\$22.30
TAS	\$15.60
SA	\$10.10
WA	\$7.90
NT	\$3.90



SOURCE: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2008, Part B Early Childhood, Education and Training, Chapter 3 Children's services, Attachment table 3A.28.

Liberals' policy to lift preschool numbers

IT IS NSW Liberals' policy to enable children in Davidson to have greater access to preschool education.

Welcoming the initiative, Jonathan O'Dea said Liberal leader Barry O'Farrell had announced it is NSW Liberals' policy to increase the preschool participation rate to 95 per cent.

"Too many children in Davidson are missing out on the benefits of a preschool education," he said.

Under the NSW Liberals' policy the participation of NSW four-year-olds at two-day-a-week preschool would increase to 95% by the provision of up to an additional 25,000 preschool places. This initiative is estimated to cost \$50 million annually over four years.

Too many parents struggle to find places for their children in Davidson's preschools. Mr O'Dea said he is determined to end that struggle, while improving the wellbeing of our future generations.

Vital workers need to be looked after

A FUND to improve services and infrastructure for critical State employees needs to be established, Jonathan O'Dea said today.

"It is NSW Liberals' policy to invest windfall revenue to fund a Better Workplaces for Teachers and Nurses program," Mr O'Dea said.

"The program would be used to fund improvements in the

workplaces of the State's teachers and nurses and will include the Davidson Electorate," he said.

"These would be improvements those working in our public schools and hospitals believe would help them do their jobs better, and could include upgrades like new staff rooms for teachers or secure parking for nurses."