



Media Release

The President of Adult Learning Australia today welcomed the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister that the Rudd government would be allocating \$100 million for infrastructure spending for the community education and training sector.

“This is a real breakthrough and I warmly congratulate the government in recognising the value of small adult and community education providers through this initiative that has the potential to make a real difference, especially in rural and remote Australia.” Mr Peart said.

“As far as I am aware, this is the first time infrastructure funding has been available for the community sector, and, as such, this is a great initiative.”

“The community education sector is vital in achieving learning outcomes that are integral to the government’s social inclusion agenda. So many community providers offer ‘second chance’ education to adults who may have dropped out of schooling or who want to gain a qualification and develop skills so they can participate in the workforce,” Mr Peart said.

“However, small learning centres in rural and remote Australia are also responsible for around one-third of all accredited training leading to a nationally recognised qualification.”

Mr Peart said that he hoped that community education and training providers can access the \$100 million funding for purchase of learning technologies and not just bricks and mortar.

“Small community providers often just don’t have the money to invest in creating an adult learning environment that can harness the power and effectiveness of e-learning.”

Ends.

For further comment

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