

Craig Emerson MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR RANKIN

Local and Proud



MAJOR FUNDING BOOST FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Picture: Craig Emerson (centre), Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Julia Gillard and State Education Minister Geoff Wilson meet a young student at Regents Park State School.

A good education means a good start to life - that's why the Rudd Government is committed to making sure our children have access to the best opportunities.

I'm really proud that since the Rudd Government was elected just over two years ago, our schools have received more money than they did in the entire time the previous Liberal Government was in office.

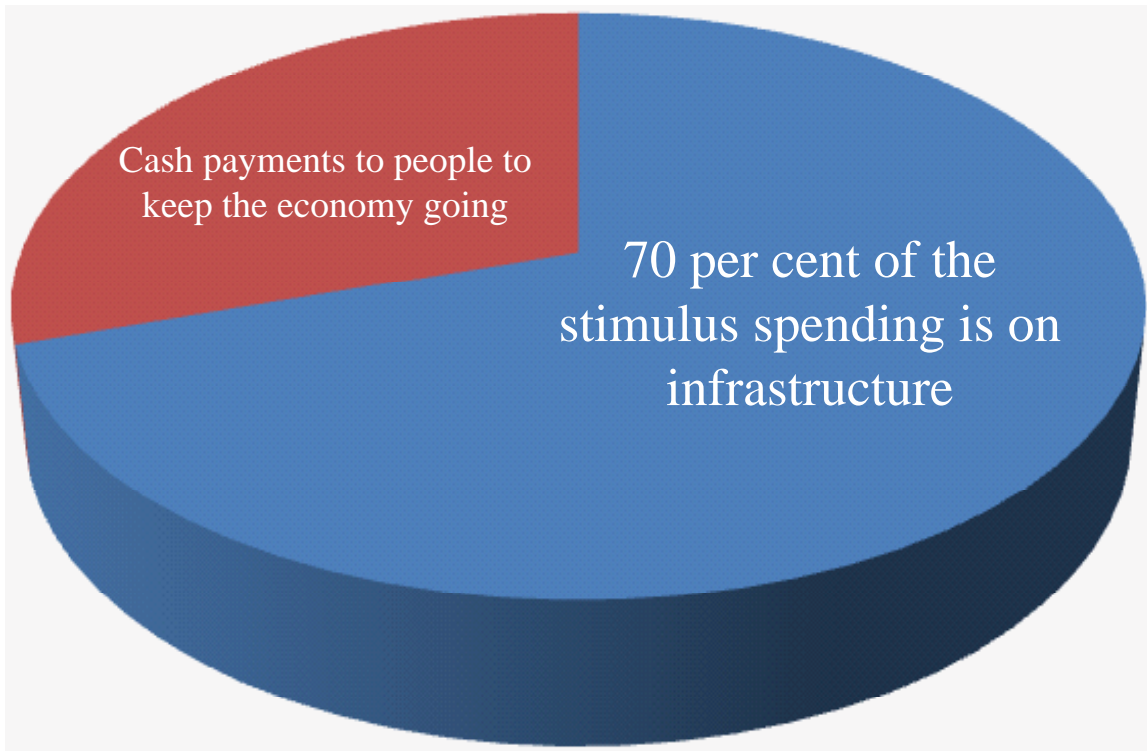
We are not just talking about a better future for our kids - we are providing the facilities they need for the best possible education.

In the electorate of Rankin, these schools have received an extra funding boost under the Rudd Government's Smarter Schools Program: Algester State School, Berrinba East State School, Boronia Heights State School, Browns Plains State School, Burrowes State School, Crestmead State School, Harris Fields State School, Kingston State School, Kingston College, Mabel Park State School, Marsden State School, Marsden High School, Regents Park State School, Shailer Park State School, Slacks Creek State School, Springwood Central State School, Springwood Road State School, Stretton State College, Woodridge North State School and Woodridge State High School.

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THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE



You've probably heard about the Economic Stimulus Package which kept Australia safe from the worst of the global financial crisis.

But did you know that most of the money is being spent on school buildings to ensure our kids have access to the best facilities?

This spending is not just an investment in the future of our kids - it is putting money into the pockets of our tradies and small businesspeople to keep the economy bubbling along.

When other work dried up as people cut their spending, the Economic Stimulus Package made sure the economy kept moving.

Seventy per cent of the money in the Economic Stimulus Package is being spent on infrastructure - that is, on vital school buildings and other community resources - which means we will have better, stronger communities after the world economy recovers.

In our area, more than \$107 million is being spent to improve our schools and provide other new buildings.

Every primary school has received up to \$3 million to build a new hall or other much-needed facilities.

And there are three new trade training centres costing almost \$6 million to make sure the next generation of tradies is on the way.

On the home front, more than 700 residents took up the offer of the Rudd Government's rebate to install solar hot water systems, and 13,000 local homes have been insulated under another rebate program.

That's not just good for the economy, and the environment, but it's good for our residents who have more comfortable homes which are cheaper to run.

By making sure the money is spent where it will give the most benefit, we will have great new facilities long after the financial crisis is over.

