$16 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, today announced 49 community colleges across NSW will share in an almost $16 million funding boost.

Ms Firth said the funding will be used by community colleges to provide nationally recognised training including pre-vocational programs.

“IN 2011, this $16 million commitment will enable community colleges to deliver over 4.6 million hours of training to around 170,000 students.

“This training provides an opportunity for those who have experienced barriers to further education and employment.

“The NSW Government recognises the major contribution adult and community education providers make in enriching the lives of people in their communities.

“That is why our $16 million investment is so important – it means colleges can continue to respond to the learning needs of their local communities.

“The funding has been distributed to 34 regional and 15 metropolitan community colleges.

“As part of our investment, $10.7 million has been allocated for the delivery of training across rural and regional NSW, including some of the State’s most disadvantaged areas.

“The additional $5.2 million was allocated through an application process and will be used by the successful community colleges to implement initiatives like social inclusion programs.

“This funding adds to the $72 million the NSW Government has provided to community colleges over the last five years.

“The training offered by community colleges makes a substantial contribution to the economic growth and development of NSW.

“Across the State, community colleges are helping people acquire new skills in order to get a job or progress their careers.

“Community colleges play an important part in the continuing development of the skilled workforce necessary for a strong and productive NSW economy.”

The almost $16 million in funding comprises about $3.4 million from the NSW Government and around $12.5 million from the Commonwealth Government.

View the 2011 ACE funding summary (PDF 10kB).