



MEDIA RELEASE — FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2007

COUNTRY VICTORIA SCHOOLS WELCOME FUNDING TO LOG ON TO THE INTERNET

Schools in rural Victoria today welcomed new Australian Government funding that will provide high quality broadband services.

Internet access will be improved for more than 33,000 students and nearly 3,000 staff at 90 independent schools under funding announced in Geelong today by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Hon Helen Coonan.

Michelle Green, Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria (AISV) said the funding will be used to build an information communication technology (ICT) network to meet the growing needs of rural schools.

“Many independent schools will now be able to use ICT to become enhanced centres of learning, improving the skills of students and teachers. A video-conference network will enable rural teachers and students to communicate globally.”

The network would also provide families with improved access to quality broadband services.

Ms Green said the Victorian Government had increased free quality broadband for government schools across Victoria. Until now students in rural and regional independent schools in Victoria had not had internet equality. The Australian Government funding would provide fair access to online resources.

She said the funding had been provided under the Australian Government’s Clever Networks programme, which was about partnerships.

“This announcement is an endorsement of effective partnerships between the independent schools’ sector and the Australian and Victorian Governments,” Ms Green said.

To interview Michelle Green, contact Brian M. Peck 0437 515 505