



## Primary Schools urged to apply for \$5000 Commonwealth Bank Foundation e-learning grants

**Sydney, 6 April 2004:** The Commonwealth Bank Foundation is again inviting primary schools across Australia to apply for one of 70 e-learning grants valued at \$5000 each to help in the development of literacy and numeracy skills through an e-learning project.

Under the Commonwealth Bank Foundation, the Bank is continuing to encourage developments in education to empower Australians – particularly young Australians – to develop skills that will be useful throughout their lives.

The e-learning grants program, now in its third year, recognises the increasingly important role played by on-line initiatives in developing literary and numeracy skills among school children. The grants assist teachers and students to implement and develop e-learning in their schools.

CEO of the Commonwealth Bank, David Murray, said feedback from schools indicated that participation by students in projects supported by e-learning grants had resulted in a greater enthusiasm for learning.

“Since the program was first offered in 2002, the Bank has awarded 140 grants totalling \$700,000 to primary schools across Australia,” Mr Murray said. “The grants have supported e-learning initiatives ranging from start-ups to highly advanced projects in rural, regional and metropolitan school communities.”

“Developing basic numeracy and literacy skills of the sort encouraged by the e-learning grants are the building blocks for young Australians to become financially literate.”

Interested primary schools can access a range of resources to help them develop their e-learning initiative and prepare their application at [www.commbank.com.au/elearninggrants](http://www.commbank.com.au/elearninggrants). The resources include summaries of the successful 2002 and 2003 e-learning initiatives.

The grants are made available in conjunction with National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2004 and were developed by the Bank in consultation with the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training and all major education departments and authorities, including Government, Catholic and Independent.

Information packs will be sent to all Australian primary schools in April 2004. Full program details can also be found on the e-learning grants website. Applications open 19 April and close 4 June 2004 (by 11pm AEST).

Successful schools will be announced at the National Literacy and Numeracy Week awards ceremony in late August 2004.

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