



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Education & Training

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

KOSKY UNVEILS EXCITING SOFTWARE FOR VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

New Australian-made software that encourages learning through three dimensional graphic modelling is being made available for all of Victoria's 1600 Government Schools.

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, today launched the Kahootz computer modelling software program, developed by the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

"Kahootz offers students and teachers the opportunity to create a range of virtual scenarios and simulations to assist learning across all curriculum areas and stages of schooling," Ms Kosky said.

"It takes the passion students already have for 3D computer games and encourages them to use their imagination and creativity to learn every thing from environmental issues to mathematics."

Ms Kosky said the software had been trialled in 11 government schools and one independent school last year with "extremely positive results".

The system was also being tested in collaboration with a school in the UK and another in New Zealand, offering the possibility for exciting global interaction via the internet.

"Anecdotal evidence indicates that Kahootz is particularly useful for disengaged students in the middle years of schooling, because it gives them the opportunity to create innovative and exciting presentations," she said.

The system is easy to learn - after just two hours of training, students and teachers were able to produce simple animations, and their skills quickly developed during the course of the trial.

The software's 3D graphics were highly engaging and designed to develop the user's spatial and design skills and were also small files enabling easy file sharing over the internet.

Ms Kosky said the Kahootz program was just the latest in the State Government's drive to make full use of the immense possibilities of computer technology in education.

"The Kahootz program reflects an important priority of the Bracks Government - that all students have access to information and communication technology," said Ms Kosky.

The Department of Education and Training has paid half the total purchase price of Kahootz and schools that take up the offer will progressively make co-payments towards the cost of the program - \$100 per school next year and \$200 per school in 2006.

The pricing arrangement, government contribution and bulk purchase means schools will obtain the software at a 70 per cent discount.

The Australian Children's Television Foundation, established in 1982, is a non-profit public company that receives funding from both State and Commonwealth Governments.