Hundreds of new IT jobs to support school laptop roll-out

Recruitment is now underway for hundreds of new IT support staff in readiness for the roll-out of new wireless laptops to all NSW Year 9 public school students, Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth announced today.

Ms Firth said the NSW Government was seeking to fill 423 new jobs for Technology Support Officers* who will be based at 404 NSW secondary and central schools across the state.

“We are looking for enthusiastic people, with excellent IT and communication skills to help facilitate the $386 million Laptops for Learning program in NSW public schools – part of the Commonwealth Government’s Digital Education Revolution,” Ms Firth said.

“These staff will not only be instrumental to the roll-out process, but they will be available to provide ongoing IT support to all students and teachers using the new technology.

“This is an exciting career opportunity for entry-level IT staff to join in the largest educational computer roll-out in Australia’s history.

“These are full-time temporary positions for the next four years, with larger high and central schools each having a Technology Support Officer and smaller schools sharing one of the positions.

“Schools will have an IT expert on the grounds to provide support and resolve technical problems.”

Ms Firth said around 9,500 teachers would begin receiving their laptops at the end of this term, with the roll-out to 55,500 Year 9 public school students beginning in Term 3.

“Already, more than 300 students and teachers at three NSW public schools – Arthur Phillip High School, Cherrybrook Technology High School and Denison College of Secondary Education - Bathurst High Campus – are road-testing the equipment,” she said.

“Over two weeks, the laptops are being meticulously tested in a range of school settings and subject areas.

“It is important that students and teachers get the maximum benefit from the new equipment, which will revolutionise teaching in our schools.”

Ms Firth said schools would ask every student, along with their parents or carers, to sign a Laptop User Charter before being assigned a laptop.

“This Charter gives students a sense of responsibility and clearly sets out our expectations for use of the laptop and the Internet,” she said.

“Students will be required to charge the laptop overnight so it’s ready for the school-day, as well as immediately report a damaged or stolen device.”

“The Charter also covers security, privacy, intellectual property, copyright, misuse and monitoring.”

* Job advertisements can be found at Jobs@DET, www.careerone.com.au and www.seek.com.au, as well as in a wide selection of regional newspapers. Applications close on Friday, 19 June.