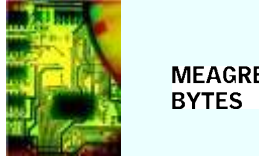




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Laptop plan

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced tax-deductible status for donations to the One Laptop Per Child scheme after saying the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous schoolchildren is still unacceptably large. About 1500 laptops have been distributed to indigenous schoolchildren in 20 "disadvantaged" schools in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland since the not-for-profit company began working in Australia. It hopes to deliver up to 20,000 machines to schools in the same regions by 2012. The Commonwealth's decision to make donations to the scheme tax deductible would help attract more funds from private and corporate donors. Rudd said.