

**Submission
No 9**

**EXAMINATION OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT
REPORTS MAY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017**

Organisation: NSW Department of Education

Date Received: 13 September 2018



Education

Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

DGL18/906

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

I write in response to your letter of 7 November 2018 regarding the Auditor-General's performance audit report – *Sharing school and community facilities* (your ref D18/35220).

The Department of Education has prepared the report and comments in the attached document for your consideration.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Mark Scott AO
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

18 December 2018



DGL18/906 - Auditor-General's report - Sharing school and community facilities

Report Source	Report Name	Recommendation Number	Recommendation(s)	Due Date	Division	Business Unit	Recommendation Status	Progress Update
Audit Office of NSW	Sharing School and Community Facilities - Performance Audit Report	1	Increase incentives and reduce impediments for school Principals to share school facilities, including: a) review the methodology for calculating fees charged for facilities to ensure that shared use of school facilities does not result in a financial burden to schools or the Department b) improve support provided to Principals by School Infrastructure NSW, including reducing the backlog of school-initiated infrastructure proposals awaiting approval c) develop service standards, including timeframes, for assessing and approving school-initiated infrastructure proposals.	31/12/2018	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	In Progress	<p>The department has prepared, endorsed and launched a Community Joint Use Framework including policy, practice notes, key examples and guidelines. The framework aims to support the existing Shared Use Policy and target significant major infrastructure upgrades and community access to facilities at schools. A number of major projects have begun to be implemented including indoor sporting centres, synthetic sports fields and performing arts centres. The design and operational models aim to encourage community access and reduce the impact on principals. These procedures benefit principals by resourcing the negotiation and planning of facilities with partners (reducing the burden on principals) and facilitating the delivery of improved asset and operational outcomes.</p> <p>a) School Infrastructure NSW is providing input into Educational Services' review of the Community Use of School Facilities policy to address this recommendation. The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.</p> <p>b) Asset Management have implemented an additional projects team to concentrate on school and community funded projects and assist local Asset Management Units in the delivery of these projects. A new initiative has also been implemented that enables school communities to self-deliver a range of commonly requested and low risk works.</p>
		2	Provide readily accessible information about available school facilities to community groups and local councils	30/12/2018	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	Completed	<p>A range of communication methods have been implemented to improve information sharing as to the availability of school facilities that can be accessed by community groups and local councils. This includes but is not limited to: direct discussions and provision of information (as well as formalising through MOUs); provision of data to GSC, DPE and the NSW Office of Sport to inform the Regional Sporting Strategies and Greening Strategies; provision of information to key state bodies (PCYC, NSW Basketball Association, NSW Soccer Federation); presentation of information to in excess of 25 councils. Further communication approaches will continue to be considered and implemented.</p>
		2	Provide readily accessible information about available school facilities to community groups and local councils	31/12/2018	ES - Educational Services	ES - Learning & Business Systems	Completed	<p>This recommendation has been completed - as previously noted "Sharing our Facilities" information is available at https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/using-school-facilities/sharing-our-facilities.</p> <p>In addition, the department's School Website Service (SWS), a facility that enables schools to build their website at no cost, will include a new section for schools facilities available for hire. This service will be available to SWS user schools as a global content option for their website from Term 1 2019</p>
		3	Ensure that the implementation of the new 'Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy' is adequately resourced, and has the support of Principals	31/12/2018	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	Completed	<p>The department has established a joint use unit to resource the implementation of the Joint Use Framework. The team is aiming to take a strategic approach to the effective implementation and promotion of the framework. The framework has been embedded in the overall schools planning processes and practices. The resourcing levels will continue to be monitored. All joint use projects aim to engage directly and positively with principals and the local school community.</p>

4	Implement processes to monitor and regularly evaluate the implementation of shared use and joint use policies and promote better practice to drive improvements	31/12/2018 SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	SINSW - School Infrastructure NSW	In Progress	<p>The Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy is regularly reviewed. A review of the Joint Use Policy has been undertaken in mid-2018 following the completion of a number of trial projects. The review was aimed to consider lessons learnt and to align with the strategic direction of both GSC and NSW Office of Sport. A register for all Joint Use projects has been established to assist in monitoring, measuring and reviewing the outcomes of the framework. Evaluation template imbedded within investigation process. Case studies documented to help improve implementation.</p>
4	Implement processes to monitor and regularly evaluate the implementation of shared use and joint use policies and promote better practice to drive improvements	ES - Educational Services	ES - Learning & Business Systems		<p>The department requires policies to be reviewed on a regular basis and has resources in place to support policy owners to monitor the policies' relevance to school communities.</p> <p>In line with this, the Community Use of School Facilities Policy is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary to encourage and empower schools to share school facilities with their local community.</p> <p>Information to support schools in implementing the policy can be accessed through the online Sharing Our Facilities toolkit https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/using-school-facilities/sharing-our-facilities</p>

