



Australian Government

Building the Education Revolution
Implementation Taskforce

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COUNCIL

13 July 2010

Ms Teresa McMichael
Principal Council Officer
Inquiry into the Building the Education Revolution Program
General purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms McMichael

Inquiry into the Building the Education Revolution Program

Thank you for your letter in relation to my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 on Friday 18 June 2010. Please find attached my responses to additional questions from members and corrections to the draft transcript.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Orgill', written over a horizontal line.

Brad Orgill
Chair



**NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2**

INQUIRY INTO BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC provided this question in writing

Question

For the NSW Government schools that have not started their BER projects, do you believe that their BER funds should be distributed differently so as to avoid any of these problems that have been identified?

Answer

The Building the Education Revolution Implementation Taskforce (The Taskforce) is in the early stages of its analysis and it is still too early to come to any definitive conclusions.

Following a request from the Taskforce, the (then) Deputy Prime Minister agreed to withhold \$75 million from the July 2010 disbursements to NSW to ensure an active Taskforce-NSW partnership in exploring solutions to the complaints that have been raised and a way forward for those projects yet to commence.

**NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2**

INQUIRY INTO BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC provided this question in writing.

Question

You told the committee that your Taskforce is assessing value for money by reference to quality, time and cost: how will you weight these factors?

Answer

The Taskforce has looked at Commonwealth, State and Territory government procurement policies and guidelines and has independently developed a value for money definition. This definition uses three core criteria: quality, time and cost.

While the assessment of value for money needs to consider all three of the core dimensions, quality is considered an initial hurdle test. That is, if a building is not fit for purpose and fails to comply with relevant standards and the agreed scope, then it cannot represent value for money.

The Taskforce is working on developing benchmarks to enable it to apply these criteria in the context of the Building the Education Revolution program (BER), taking into account the BER's planned outcomes, timelines for the funding rounds and cost provisions.

**NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2**

INQUIRY INTO BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC provided this question in writing

Question

What information do you have about the NSW Department of Education and Training's progress in completing projects compared to other jurisdictions?

Answer

The NSW Department of Education and Training has published the completion figures of projects in NSW on its website.

As part of its analysis, the Taskforce is comparing the completion of projects across jurisdictions and education authorities. That analysis is currently underway and, it is envisaged, will be reported on in the Taskforce's Interim Report in August.