

INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION PROGRAM

Organisation: Scotts Head Public School P&C
Name: Ms Karin Woldring
Position: President
Date received: 25/05/2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with regret that we, the Parents and Citizens of Scotts Head Public School write to you to raise our concerns regarding our BER building.

The announcement of this initiative created so much positive feeling and excitement within our school and community. Creating infrastructure through existing schools to support the school and community using local tradespeople and suppliers was a win win for everyone.

Sadly what has eventuated is nothing like we were promised.

The Builders and suppliers are not local despite the school actively contacting local tradespeople with details on how to register with the Managing Contractors REED.

The building which we chose from the limited options is not what was promised. It has been significantly 'descoped' with the loss of a rainwater tank, underfloor storage, solar panels and a covered walkway joining it to the rest of the school. It is still not finished and is \$450,000 over budget, costing 1.3 million dollars so far! We have viewed the cost breakdown on the BER website but are at a loss as to how our building could have cost such an exorbitant amount of money.

The importance of the BER project for Economic Stimulus was clear and the speed of rollout important. This should not be an excuse for the problems we now have.

We are also aware Private schools that received BER funding had far greater control and choice resulting in vastly superior outcomes and value for money. That was what we wanted!! Can you imagine how angry that makes us in the Public school system?

Current feeling within our school and community concerning this situation is not positive. The Government is viewed as handling this very badly. There is a strong feeling that Taxpayers money has been rorted. The Government and the school have not got 'Value for Money', nor have our local tradespeople.

We feel this sentiment could be turned around. We wish to be included in any Audit or Inquiry that is being undertaken. We need an explanation of how this has occurred and we need transparency.

In addition the school has long been asking for funds to refurbish our old library to convert it into a valuable Life Long Learning Space. This would greatly benefit the school and our Community. We had initially thought that we could do this with our BER funds when the project was first announced. We have basic plans drawn up and received quotes from local tradespeople. The cost will be a fraction of the BER building! We are desperate to develop this project and will continue to seek support for this despite our despair with the BER process.

The federal government has stated publicly it will investigate claims of rorting and we implore you to investigate the devastating outcomes we are experiencing.

We thank you for your time and hope that our voice will be heard. With help this situation could be changed from a largely negative one to the positive one we had initially hoped for.

Thankyou

Scotts Head Public School P & C

Karin Woldring(President)