

Submission
No 100

INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION PROGRAM

Organisation: Rankin's Springs Public School
Name: Ms Gaye Banfield
Position: President
Date received: 7/06/2010



Rankin's Springs P & C Association

4 June, 2010

Dear Mr Piccoli,

Rankin's Springs Public School is one of the many schools across the region that have been fortunate to have the "Building Education Revolution" project.

The Parents & Citizens Association have been investigating the project going on in our school and are very concerned about the costs associated with what work has been done.

Our school was allocated \$250000 through the P21 Program. A decision was made to renovate the existing buildings that we have, due to the small number of students at Rankin's Springs Public School, and the buildings being sufficient for our school's needs. The buildings chosen were our library and our resource room.

Listed below is the renovation work that was carried out on each building:

Library - 65 square metres

- New Tarasafe flooring
- New bookshelves x 5
- 3 Pinboards
- 7 Holland Blinds
- Shelves for craft equipment
- Safestep 100 applied to Verandah

Resource Room - 58 square metres

- Internal painting
- New light fixtures x 6
- Cupboards x 8
- Filing Cabinets x 5
- Freestanding Book Rack x 1
- 2 tables
- 1 chair & 1 workstation
- Safestep 100 applied to Verandah
- Lattice covering on outside of building on one side
- New carpet
- Holland blinds x 6

All of the above have been costed at \$244109.02. We believe the final figure is \$253000.

As it stands the project still has not been signed off by the staff of our school. There were many unacceptable errors made with the refurbishment. These issues are being attended to but still not finalised. It would be appropriate now to let you know our library has not been able to be used since April 2009.

RANKIN'S SPRINGS P & C ASSOCIATION

President
Cathy Bennett

Secretary
Gordon Bennett

Treasurer
Tammy Anderson

As well as the unsatisfactory tasks completed we are very concerned with the value of the project. Surely these refurbishments wouldn't calculate to a quarter of a million dollars?

We would like to draw your attention to the P21 Project Costs listed on the BER website:

- **Contingency** - "This represents a 5 per cent allocation for unforeseen risks which may arise whilst the project is being delivered." There were no risks of latent ground condition, asbestos or poor weather. This was costed at \$12500.
- **Design documentation, field data, site management** - "This covers professional construction documentation from architects, engineers, surveyors and statutory planners and the site surveys, investigations and visits required to finalise the project scope and preferred siting. This also covers the cost of statutory planning approval, which is required for all new buildings. The costs of the statutory planning approval process can be significant, particularly if specialist reports are required on heritage listing or flood and bushfire zoning. Statutory planning approval is a necessary cost of building projects." So therefore it appears as though the Rankin's Springs Public School project has been costed as a "new building" project rather than a "refurbishment". A major indiscrepancy considering this cost is \$80153.62.
- **Superstructure** - "These costs are for aboveground works which are more likely to be visible. It includes framing, roofing and steel structures; hydraulics and mechanical fixtures; and all that you'd expect in a new building - walls, doors, windows and glazing, ceilings, tiling, tough finishes, carpet, painting and fixtures." Again this seems to have been costed on a new building rate of \$103839.62, again this is a refurbishment. We have put together a costing of the work that was done to our school and being generous with the cost of labour and administration, the whole project had we sought to contract it out ourselves would have cost approximately \$60000 all up.

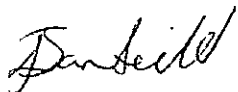
Given the information above there is a discrepancy of up to \$185000. This amount of money for a school of our size could:

- Fund a second teacher for 3 years or
- Fund a SLSO for 5 years or
- Fund a part-time teacher for 6 years or
- Provide every child in our school could have their own Smartboard or
- Provide every child in our school could have their own SLSO every second day for a year or
- Equip every room in our school with a Smartboard and video conferencing and still have change left over.

In our opinion the work carried out on our school was simply not worth \$253000 and an investigation targeting an itemised list of the costs associated with the project would reveal that the refurbishment could have been done for far less.

The Rankin's Springs Public School P & C Association thanks you in advance for taking the time to review our case. We hope that you find the information provided of assistance to your inquiry into the Building the Education Revolution program.

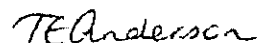
Yours sincerely,



Gaye Banfield
President



Susan Streat
Secretary



Tammy Anderson
Treasurer