

Submission  
No 84

## **INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION PROGRAM**

**Organisation:** Yoogali Public School P & C Association  
**Name:** Ms Aimee Gibbs  
**Position:** President  
**Date received:** 6/06/2010

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Aimee Gibbs  
P & C President  
Yoogali Public School

6<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2  
Legislative Council  
Parliament house  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

***Inquiry into the Building the Education Revolution program***

Yoogali Public School is a small school of 61 students, But being a small school does not mean that our views should get swept under the mat nor does that mean less opportunity for our children. In 2009 when The Government announced the "Building the Education Revolution" (BER) Program Yoogali Public School was over the moon at the thought of our school getting much needed upgrading to bring Yoogali Public School into the 21<sup>st</sup> century both Cosmetically and though the interactive smart boards that would be included in the upgrade.

Yoogali Public School Secured an \$850 000 Grant and we were over the moon, what we could do with this amount of money could nearly be endless. Our joy unfortunately, was short lived. Listed below are a number of concerns we as the Yoogali Public School P & C have regarding the "Value for Money" and practicality of the BER project.

### **Value for Money**

A \$300 000 7 core library for \$850 000. No, not value for money! A very welcome addition to our school but for all that money we only got a library. We thought we would also have enough to replace all the plumbing in the school, a new carpark, add undercover walkways, build a new, bigger garden shed, sports equipment shed and demolish an old weather shed with nearly \$1 000 000. We only managed to afford a Library!

### **Over Budget?**

It obviously went over budget as there were some items on the plan that didn't end up in the building ie: Water tank( which according to Laing O'Rourke would be a standard addition to all schools and complies with the water conservation policies), Solar power panels (again this was supposed to be supplied to help alleviate the power costs and impact on the additional power costs), security hood for the office window, railing for the pathway/ramp, security system(was included then taken off plans).

### **Appropriateness of costs**

Excessive on-site costs ie: \$1 60 000 (see site works and services), we only have the estimated costs prior to building commencing. We do not have access to the final costs. If there was an excessive contingency of \$45,200 and an expected balance of \$86,964..... Where did all the money go? Why were some things excluded from the original plans?

### **Cost Charges**

Very excessive ie: \$81,453 for plans that are standard for all DET 7 core libraries. A local builder, without the inclusion of a management company could have been able to build this and possibly all the other things the school did not get due to the added and excessive costs. Why are the management fees so high?

### **Local Tradesmen**

Were used for a majority of work however materials were bought in from the metropolitan areas. More funds wasted by freight costs.

### **Library meeting the needs of our school**

The Library does meet the needs of our school, however the issue is that we could have got so much more for the money allocated to us. The private School around the corner benefited so much more with a similar amount of money, to point of being embarrassing.

### **Other issues**

The Yoogali Public School P & C questioned Laing O'Rourke on several issues and did not really get any answers to our questions. We questioned why things were deleted from the plans and again did not get any satisfactory answers, just standard responses. In our opinion there has not been open and transparent communication in regard to our queries or concerns. We still do not have access to final figures, Why is this?

I would be happy to discuss any of the points raised in this submission should the Committees require more information or seek clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Aimee Gibbs  
P & C President

Amanda Vogt

» BER-R - Building the Education Revolution - Reporting



**Nation Building**

**ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN**



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**Australian Government P21 Funding Allocation (GST excl) \$850,000**

All Figures are GST exclusive	ECS Amount	Benchmark Value	Final Cost
IPO Project Management Cost (1.3%)	\$11,050	\$0	\$0
Contingency (5%)	\$42,500	\$0	\$0
<b>Library</b>		<b>\$850,000</b>	
Network Substation Allowance	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Managing Contractor's Incentive Fee	\$5,542	\$0	\$0
Managing Contractor's Project Management Cost	\$21,336	\$0	\$0
Modular Building Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0
Design documentation, field data, site management	\$81,453	\$0	\$0
Preliminaries	\$69,000	\$0	\$0
Substructure	\$25,655	\$0	\$0
Superstructure	\$271,493	\$0	\$0
Site Works	\$71,513	\$0	\$0
Site Services	\$93,772	\$0	\$0
Design and price risk	\$19,722	\$0	\$0
<b>Sub-total</b>	\$763,036	\$0	\$0
<b>Transfer Amount</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Balance (excl GST)</b>	\$86,964	\$0	\$0