

**Submission  
No 116**

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

**Organisation:** Gordon West Public School P&C Association Inc  
**Name:** Mrs Alison Gray  
**Position:** President  
**Date received:** 9/06/2010

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# Gordon West Public School

## Parents' and Citizens' Association Incorporated



Telephone

Facsimile (f)

3rd June, 2010

The Director,  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE BER PROGRAM;**

**OPINIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GORDON WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION**

The Gordon West Public School Parents and Citizens Association holds the following *opinions* regarding the costing process for the BER Program, and believes these may be of interest to the Standing Committee;

- (i) That "initial costings" (ie Funding Allocations) stated by the NSW Government Department of Education and Training were deliberately high to ensure schools received maximum funding from the Federal Government, to ensure that projects could be completed in the event they finished "over budget".

*Note: Gordon West Public School P21 Project "Library and Three Classrooms" Funding Allocation = \$3,000,000.00*

- (ii) That Bovis Lend Lease will ultimately receive the lower of either the actual costs incurred, or, 105% of a benchmark number based on the BER Program Office reviewing projects across Australia.

- (iii) That the "Final Cost" for the Gordon West Public School P21 Project "Library and Three Classrooms" will not be known until the project is completed (which is after the cut-off for submissions to this Parliamentary Inquiry)

*Note: Gordon West Public School P&C is therefore unable to comment at this stage on "value for money".*

The Gordon West Public School P&C Association offers the following recommendations to the Standing Committee in regards to the costing process for the BER Program;

- (i) That an Independent Authority be commissioned to supply costings for each BER Project to the General Purpose Standing Committee.
- (ii) That an analysis be undertaken to compare Funding Allocations, versus Independent Authority Costings, versus Final Costs, on a project by project basis.
- (iii) That any major discrepancy between Funding Allocations and Independent Authority Costings be investigated further, in the event that Final Costs are comparable with Funding Allocations.
- (iv) In the event the above recommendations are rejected by the General Purpose Standing Committee, that Gordon West Public School receives such an analysis;

*ie., Gordon West P21 Project "Library and three classrooms", and Gordon West National School Pride Project "Covered Walkway joining COLA to Toilet Block".*

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Alison Gray

President P&C, on behalf of "Gordon West Public School P&C Association Executive Committee"