

Building the Education Revolution in Queensland State Schools Fact Sheet 1

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This Fact Sheet is intended to provide a broad overview of the Building the Education Revolution program in Queensland state schools.

Overview

The Australian Government has committed funding of \$14.7 billion over three years to provide new facilities and refurbishments in Australian schools to meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers through the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

Queensland state schools will receive \$1.78 billion in BER funding, consisting of \$1.6 billion for the Primary Schools for the 21st Century element and \$165 million for the National School Pride element. Additional funding for the Science and Languages Centres for the 21st Century for Secondary Schools element is still to be determined by the Australian Government.

Objectives of the BER Program

Through the BER program, the Australian Government aims to:

1. Provide economic stimulus through the rapid construction and refurbishment of school infrastructure.
2. Build learning environments to help children, families and communities participate in activities that will support achievement, develop learning potential and bring communities together.

Overview of the BER elements

The three elements of the BER program are:

1. Primary Schools for the 21st Century—\$12.4 billion for all Australian primary schools, P-12 schools (primary school component) and special schools to build new iconic facilities such as libraries, multipurpose halls or classrooms, or to upgrade existing facilities.
2. National School Pride program—\$1.288 billion for all schools in Australia, government and non-government, for funding for minor capital works and maintenance projects.
3. Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools—\$1 billion for the construction of new science laboratories or language learning centres.

The BER program is underpinned by a strong partnership approach between the Australian and Queensland government.

Roles in Queensland

The Australian Government provides funding, their guidance and support to achieve the overall program objectives.

Department of Education and Training (DET) is responsible for implementing the BER program and ensuring that the Australian Government's program objectives and timelines are met, whilst ensuring that the needs of the school are best addressed within the confines of the Australian Government's BER guidelines and funding cap.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is leading the development of the overall procurement framework and models of delivery for the BER program. All procurement strategies have been developed consistent with the requirements of the "Capital Works Management Framework", the Queensland Government's key policy for managing risks in the planning and delivery of government building projects and the Australian Government's BER guidelines.

Due to the scale of the program, geographic diversity of the projects, the need for early commencement and tighter than usual industry standard timelines, innovative fast track delivery strategies are being implemented while still ensuring that value money outcomes are being achieved.

All site planning and construction works are being undertaken by the private sector, with various sectors of the construction industry being engaged. Q-Build, a construction and maintenance wing of DPW, will not be used to deliver the BER program, except in circumstances where there may be market failure, for example in remote areas of Queensland where contractors may not be economically available.

BER program scope

The scope of each school project delivered under the BER program is dependant upon the Australian Government funding allocations. These funding allocations are based upon the enrolments at each school.

The scope of each project will vary depending upon the funding allocation, the needs of the school having regard to the Australian Government's BER guidelines, the site constraints and conditions as well as local construction market conditions.. This will mean that schools with the same funding will not necessarily receive the comparable facilities across the state.

What is guaranteed is that facilities will be constructed or refurbished to the value of the Australian Government's funding amount.

Funding is allocated by the Australian Government to cover not only the cost of the construction of the facilities, but all other project development costs and charges. The Australian Government's funding allocations effectively set a budget limit for each school and the projects will need to carry a contingency amount in case unforeseen costs arise. If the contingency is not required, the school will incorporate this funding into the BER project.

Timeframes

To ensure that the BER has the greatest impact on job support, it is essential that design and construction on as many projects as possible commences quickly. To further enhance efficiency and early take-up, design templates will be used wherever possible. These templates should be used by each project unless a school has a pre-approved design available, or can demonstrate that the non-use of a template is reasonable, appropriate and that the building process can still be expedited and achieved within the prescribed timeframes.

The following is an overview of the BER timelines for Queensland state schools

BER Element	Projects complete
NSP- National School Pride	
Round 1	20 December 2009
Round 2	1 February 2010
P21- Primary Schools for the 21st Century	
Round 1	20 December 2010
Round 2	31 January 2011
Round 3	31 March 2011
SLC – Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century Secondary Schools	
Round 1 (only one round)	30 June 2010

Further information

For further information regarding BER in Queensland state school please contact the DET BER Project Team:

Hotline 07 3237 0008	Email inquiries.ber@deta.qld.gov.au	Websites www.education.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/strategy/ber
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For further information the Australian Government's BER program:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/BuildingTheEducationRevolution/Pages/default.aspx>