

The Building the Education Revolution

The Building the Education Revolution provides \$14.7 billion over three years for school capital funding projects.

In February 2009 the Government announced an economic stimulus package entitled *Nation Building and Jobs Plan*. A significant part of the Government's plan includes the *Building the Education Revolution* (BER).

The BER has commenced and consists of three main programs which include:

- *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* - \$12.4 billion to build or upgrade large scale infrastructure, such as libraries and multipurpose halls in every primary school, special schools, and K-12 schools in Australia.
- *Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools* - \$1 billion to build around 500 new science laboratories and language learning centres in high schools with a demonstrated need for upgraded facilities.
- *National School Pride Program* - \$1.3 billion to provide up to \$200,000 to every Australian school for maintenance and renewal of school buildings and minor building works.

The BER aims to:

- Provide economic stimulus through the construction and refurbishment of school infrastructure.
- Provide schools from all sectors capital investment.

The time frames for the delivery of the BER initiatives are challenging and ambitious to achieve a stimulatory economic impact.

The Block Grant Authority (BGA) in each state and territory is responsible for assessing and administering BER funding applications from independent schools.

The cooperation between ISCA, the AISs, the BGAs, schools and Governments in streamlining approval processes, undertaking assessment and contract management for each project has been critical.

The BER: ISCA's Position Statement

- ISCA appreciates the significant capital investment made through the BER
- We acknowledge the inclusive nature of the BER as all schools regardless of sector will be eligible for funding
- The BER recognises the contribution of parents and the role of independent schools in educating young Australians
- BGAs are proving very effective and efficient in delivering BER funding to independent schools
- An ambitious program of this nature may encounter some difficulties – ISCA is confident that the BGAs will ensure the BER is successfully delivered to eligible independent schools

BER Funding Guidelines

All schools are eligible for funding under the *National School Pride and Primary Schools for the 21st Century Programs* — the allocation of funding is based on enrolment share.

Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools is a competitive needs based program.

The independent sector will receive around \$1.5 billion from BER funding.