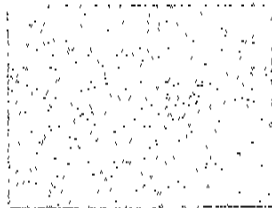


Australian Government



Building
the education revolution



QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TRAINING AND THE ARTS
BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Introduction

1. This template enables State and Territory Governments and Block Grant Authorities to provide information to the Australian Government on the implementation of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. BER complements existing and planned investments by states and territories and non-government systems and schools.

The three elements of BER are:

- (a) \$12.4 billion for Primary Schools for the 21st Century – all Australian primary schools, K-12 schools (primary school component) and special schools will be eligible to apply for funding to build new iconic facilities such as libraries and multipurpose halls or to upgrade existing facilities.
- (b) \$1 billion for Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century Secondary Schools – all secondary schools are eligible to apply for funding, on a competitive basis, for the construction of new science laboratories or language learning centres.
 - (i) \$1.288 billion for the National School Pride program – all schools in Australia, government and non-government, will be eligible to apply for funding for minor capital works and maintenance projects.

2. As BER is a critical component of the Australian Government's economic stimulus package it is essential that construction and maintenance work commences as quickly as possible.

3. This Implementation Template forms part of the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and [State/Territory/BGA].

4. These implementation arrangements will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and the other Party signs bilateral will be subject to re-negotiation as agreed by both parties from time to time, and will expire on 31 December 2012, or earlier termination as agreed in writing by the Parties.

Commencing Projects

5. Outline how you will call for, assess, prioritise and select projects to meet the requirements of each of the three elements of BER?

(a) Primary Schools for the 21st Century

Queensland's P21 program will be based upon identified needs already provided by schools and the department's regional offices.

Multipurpose halls are not a standard provision for new primary schools in Queensland. Whilst some schools have had these built through grants using standard designs, a review of each site has revealed schools that are deficient requiring either a new build, extension or refurbishment of an existing. A sliding scale of increasing size will be used dependant upon the enrolment size of the school.

All primary schools have existing libraries (Resource Information Centres) which have been assessed against the current design standards for new state schools to identify the need for either a new building, or an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility. A scale of increasing size will be used dependent upon the enrolment size of the school. Queensland's new school standards provide additional space for science within the library and this requirement has been factored into the assessment. In small schools (0-100 enrolments) a multipurpose community use building to cater for library, meetings and other community functions will be used.

In a limited range of circumstances across the state, some P21 projects will receive additional functionality to cater for a number of state-wide priorities, such as indigenous and low socio-economic communities. The integrity of the overall program funding envelope will be maintained. The need for other buildings will be assessed on a case by case basis.

(b) Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools

Secondary schools will use a bid based process to identify needs for Science and Language Centres across the state. Schools will submit a simple on-line nomination and the department's regional offices will assess and prioritise these. A state-wide prioritisation will then occur across all regions to select the highest priorities in line with Commonwealth guidelines.

(c) National School Pride program

Queensland's National School Pride program, in the main, will be based upon identified needs already provided by schools and the department's regional offices and prioritised by the department. The state will capitalise on the large un-met need for minor classroom refurbishments to provide the greatest direct impact on teaching and learning.

The development of other projects under this program will be identified by DETA regional officers in conjunction with principals and their school communities.

These proposals will be assessed and prioritised by departmental officers. As with other elements of the program, projects will be assessed on their ability to be delivered within the program timeframes.

6. What strategies will be used to fast track application and assessment outcomes?

Queensland's BER program will be based, wherever possible, upon identified needs already largely provided by schools and the Department's regional offices. The Department has already largely identified the needs under the Primary Schools for the 21st century and national School Pride elements.

Only the Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools program will be bid based as both other programs have been identified. An innovative on-line application process will be used to gather and managed these nominations.

Designs templates will be predominantly used and are based on DETA's standard provision for new schools. The templates vary according to the size of the school's enrolments and in some cases specific community circumstances such as low socio-economic status.

DETA's regional offices will work with schools to support them in finalising project scope. The Department will use existing resources where possible, supplemented by the provision of additional staff where necessary to achieve required outcomes.

7. Outline how you will manage applications from schools marked for closure or for merger?

DETA has an annual review process of verifying the sustainability of schools. Schools deemed unsustainable and marked for closure or mothballing will not be included in the program.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to re-direct funds originally identified for a closing school/merging school to surrounding schools – these cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Project Management

8. What ongoing project management of each project will be offered?

Procurement of services involved in the delivery of BER will be in accordance with the Queensland Government's Capital Works Management Framework. Services include, but are not limited to, project management, principal consultancy and construction contractors.

Project co-ordinators from DETA will work with respective project teams throughout the delivery stage to ensure program expectations are achieved.

9. What project management approach will be adopted?

The BER program management will be based on the Department of Education, Training and the Arts' (DETA) successful models for the delivery of current programs of work.

Industry best standard practice for the delivery of the BER program will be based on the Queensland Government's Capital Works Management Framework.

10. How will you ensure every school can maximise opportunities under BER? How will you assist smaller or less resourced schools/communities to participate?

A centrally managed process will ensure all schools receive equitable access to BER funded projects. For the majority of the BER (P21 and NSP), no formal applications by schools will be necessary.

The application process under Science and Languages for the 21st Century will be a simple online application process. This will be based upon the successful School Community Development Fund online system.

A multi-purpose building will be used for schools with 0-100 enrolments. DETA regional offices may be required to work closely with small schools to achieve delivery of this solution.

Building

11. List the design templates to be used (and attach copies for the Commonwealth), or if design templates are not being used detail why this is reasonable and appropriate.

1. Small School Solution x 1 {0-100}
2. Halls/Covered Areas x 3 {100-300 enrolments, 301-700 enrolments and 701+ enrolments, with low SES add-on module as appropriate}
3. Resource Information Centre (Library) x 3 {100-300 enrolments, 301-700 enrolments, 701+ enrolments all including science space add-on module}
4. Secondary Science and Language x 2 {Science, Languages}

Design templates forwarded to dane.clarkson@deewr.gov.au

12. How will sustainable building principles be incorporated into construction, refurbishments and maintenance, wherever possible?

DETA will utilise its Ecologically Sustainable Development Requirements for School Facilities which outline sustainable building practices for energy, water, materials, waste, environmental health, heating/ventilation and cooling, equipment and furniture etc. Copy of this document previously provided.

The Community

13. Outline the steps to be taken to achieve broad community consultation, including incorporating the views of relevant Principals, Parents and Citizens or Parents and Friends groups, on work to be undertaken?

Stage one will include a telephone call to the principal explaining the program, the Commonwealth's priorities and providing a summary of the proposed solution at their individual site.

An email or web link will then be sent providing further details and plans as appropriate. The principal (and a P&C representative time permitting) will be asked to endorse the proposal and return it for approval by the Commonwealth.

Following approval a BER officer will then arrange to meet with the principal and a P&C representative to discuss the possible location on the site and other details. Where possible this visit will be co-ordinated with the contractor and Facilities Services Branch Project Co-ordinator.

During the delivery of projects, ongoing progress reporting/consultation to the school will occur via the Facilities Services Branch Project Co-ordinator.

14. Outline how you will ensure new and refurbished facilities in primary schools will be available for broad community use at no cost or low cost?

DETA will review existing standard community use agreements and implement appropriate measures to ensure community access to P21 facilities.

Data Entry

15. Will you undertake data entry on your school projects?

(a) If yes, how will this be achieved? Or

(b) If not, how will you ensure your schools meet all data entry requirement as required?

Data entry and reporting will be undertaken by BER officers and Project Co-ordinators.

Appropriate systems will be developed to collect and maintain accurate information to meet the Australian Government's reporting requirements.

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