



Australian Education Union

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30 October 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

We write to you in regard to your inquiry into the Federal Government's Primary Schools for the 21st Century program and your request for input regarding this matter.

The Australian Education Union continues to strongly support the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program and the Building the Education Revolution program as a whole. The investment will provide the opportunity for schools to develop modern learning environments which will assist in improving education outcomes for our students.

That said, there are a number of concerns that have arisen during the implementation of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century that the AEU believes should be subject to full investigation. The AEU accordingly requests a full and detailed inquiry into the following matters:

- whether state and territory governments are maintaining their own efforts in school maintenance and capital and the extent to which they are charging administration costs;
- the extent to which projects will meet the requirements that they will be available for community use;
- whether projects are informed by principles of environmental sustainability;
- whether costs are being inflated.

We trust that this Senate Inquiry into the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program can contribute towards ensuring that the full potential of this significant investment in school infrastructure and the full economic stimulus benefit is realised. That would be in the interest of our students, their schools and communities.

Yours sincerely

Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President