

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM

Outcome:

DEEWR Question No. 1

Senator Mason asked on 22 June 2010, EEWR Proof Hansard page 34.

Question

How many projects have you pulled up, at any stage, for failure to provide good value for money?

Answer

As part of the application and assessment process, education authorities were asked to revise and resubmit several hundred projects. Typically, the affected projects required more substantial scoping, more detailed explanation of what the project entailed and expected benefits arising, and evidence of school principal consultation and endorsement. All project applications were submitted on the basis of an estimate of costs for the facility as detailed design pricing and tendering activity had not occurred.

The department has queried education authorities with respect to various projects during the rollout of the BER program as school complaints and media reports have come to light. This work has been taken further by the BER Implementation Taskforce.