



Australian Education Union

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Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Shona.Batge@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Batge

**Re: Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee –
Inquiry into Primary Schools for the 21st Century Program**

The Committee requested us to provide answers to several questions raised during the Committee Hearing in Melbourne on 17th May, 2010.

We were asked to inform the Committee whether our Victorian counterparts had made representations to the Victorian government for transparency regarding costings and processes associated with the Building the Education Revolution Primary Schools for the 21st Century program.

We are able to inform the Committee that the Australian Education Union Victorian Branch has raised with both the Victorian Government and the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development issues in relation to BER as appropriate.

We were also asked to provide the Committee with information about anecdotal concerns that costs associated with the Building the Education Revolution Primary Schools for the 21st Century program were being inflated.

Our members and other members of the community have raised questions, verbally and informally, about the possibility of costs associated with building projects being inflated. We have not received concerns in writing.

In response to raising the issue of The King's School in Sydney receiving \$2.5 million for a school library, the Chair asked whether the school would already have had a library. We are able to confirm for the Committee that the school's website indicates that the school has a centre of learning and leadership incorporating a computerised library, as well as its own museum, rugby fields, football fields, cross-country tracks, 50-metre swimming pool, heated pool, sports centre, advanced cricket facilities, rowing, indoor rock climbing, indoor shooting range, tennis and basketball courts, information technology centre, science centre, 320-seat professional theatre, comprehensive music centre, boatshed on Parramatta River, and a historic sandstone chapel. We trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President