

Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Dear Dr Batge

The NSW Catholic Block Grant authority appeared before the Senate Committee Hearing on the BER P21 Program on the morning of 18 May 2010 in Sydney.

The Committee asked the CBGA delegation what per metre building rates it used for its projects and requested the delegation to forward relevant information to the Committee.

Please find attached the 2010 construction rates used by the CBGA for all its capital programs, not just BER. We believe these rates reflect current building prices and achieve 'value for money' on building costs. Our rates are updated annually according to movements in standard building price indices.

The rates listed are not absolute in the sense that any one project must totally conform with them. We do expect that the bulk of projects will fit close to them, allowing that there may be 'unders and overs' depending upon tender conditions by time and locality and specific site requirements. However, we would query any tenders that came to us widely in excess of the rates. In such cases, we would usually seek a re-tender or negotiate the price with a tenderer. In a small number of cases, where an excess rate can be justified (such as in a remote area or unusual site conditions) we might be required to adjust the size or scope of a project to fit the budget. However, that has not been a common practice with BER P21 projects; we have usually been able to negotiate tenders or used the flexibility allowed within BER to transfer funds among projects where tenders have been under or over.

In summary, we find our published rates reflect market prices and ensure 'value for money'.

In reading the accompanying Table, the cost per metre, for example, for General Learning Areas (classrooms), Primary, we expect is \$2,426 per square metre. That includes the building, fit out, travel (circulation space within facilities), and all other construction costs and non-construction costs as listed in the notes to the Table.

In providing the attached material to the members of the Senate Committee, I ask that this cover note accompany it.

I would be pleased to answer any questions on the material.

Yours sincerely

William Walsh
Director Resources Policy & Capital Programs
Catholic Education Commission, NSW
and
Executive Officer, NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority



NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority

Administering the Australian Government Capital Grants Program, National Secondary Schools Computer Fund, Trade Training Centres Program, Building the Education Revolution Program (Primary Schools for the 21st Century, Science & Language Centres for Secondary Schools, National School Pride Program)

ABN 32 880 478 247
 PO Box A169, Sydney South NSW 1235
 Level 9, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000
 Telephone: (02) 9287 1555 Fax: (02) 9264 6308
 Email: cbga@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au

FUNCTIONAL AREA CONSTRUCTION RATES 2010 (Dollars per Metre Squared)

FUNCTIONAL AREAS	Primary & Secondary Base Rate Including 3.5% increase for 2010	PRIMARY Base Rate including 8.8% allowance for Travel	PRIMARY with 40% allowance for other construction and non-construction costs	SECONDARY Base Rate including 13.3% allowance for Travel	SECONDARY with 40% allowance for other construction and non-construction costs
Learning Areas					
General Learning Areas	\$1,593	\$1,733	\$2,426	\$1,805	\$2,527
Library	\$1,609	\$1,751	\$2,451	\$1,823	\$2,552
Art	\$1,667	N/A	N/A	\$1,889	\$2,644
Fitness / PE	\$1,593	\$1,733	\$2,426	\$1,805	\$2,527
Music / Dance / Drama	\$1,609	N/A	N/A	\$1,823	\$2,552
Science	\$2,016	N/A	N/A	\$2,284	\$3,197
Technological & Applied Studies	\$1,733	N/A	N/A	\$1,963	\$2,748

FUNCTIONAL AREAS	Primary & Secondary Base Rate Including 3.5% increase for 2010	PRIMARY Base Rate including 8.8% allowance for Travel	PRIMARY with 40% allowance for other construction and non-construction costs	SECONDARY Base Rate including 13.3% allowance for Travel	SECONDARY with 40% allowance for other construction and non-construction costs
Support Areas					
Administration / Staff	\$1,887	\$2,053	\$2,874	\$2,138	\$2,993
Communal Hall / Gymnasium	\$1,668	\$1,815	\$2,541	\$1,890	\$2,646
Pupil Facilities	\$2,546	\$2,770	\$3,878	\$2,884	\$4,037
Building Services (incl Mech/Elec)	\$1,405	\$1,528	\$2,139	\$1,592	\$2,228
Covered Outdoor Learning Area	\$438	\$477	\$667	\$496	\$694
Circulation					
Travel Enclosed	\$1,284	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Travel Unenclosed	\$535	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Covered Ways	\$413	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Undercrofts	\$426	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- (i) The 2010 base rates per square metre for new construction reflect a 3.5% increase on the 2009 rates.
- (ii) Construction cost rates used in the CBGA Application include an allowance for Travel / Engineering, with the travel allowance rates as shown in the columns for Primary and Secondary Schools.
- (iii) Construction cost rates for K-10/12 schools are applied separately to the Primary and Secondary components, determined by the applicant's selection in the 'Proposed Works' module.
- (iv) The rates include fitout.
- (v) 'Pupil Facilities' encompasses in the main toilets and canteens.
- (vi) The 40% allowance on top of the base rate is to cover other construction costs (such as civil works, electricity and water connections, car parking, landscaping) and non-construction costs (such as architect/professional fees, furniture and equipment, Council fees).