

**Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Federal Government's Primary Schools for the 21st Century – Senate Inquiry**

Submitting organisation – John Holland (for P21 works undertaken in WA)

Contact – Adam Harry, General Manager, John Holland Western Region

About the Senate Inquiry

The committee is seeking information directly from P21 managing contractors or builders that addresses claims being made in submissions and at hearings regarding inflated costings and failure to achieve value for money for P21 projects.

The committee specifically seeks information from contractors on the following matters:

1. The tender/selection process undertaken for your company.

The contract was let as a lump sum, competitive tender.

In this regard, the method employed by the Government of Western Australia for obtaining quotes from builders was completely different to that understood to have been adopted by other state governments.

In Western Australia, builders were selected on a competitive tendering basis, which is the traditional method of determining the builder with the lowest price.

After the initial round of tenders, the State Government authority responsible for this project, Building Management & Works, invited tenderers to submit revised prices. This allowed the government to undertake the large volume of work at or below the first round tender prices received.

In John Holland Western Region's opinion, the State Government has overseen this project responsibly and builders in Western Australia have responded fairly and are providing excellent value to the taxpayer in the successful delivery of this program.

2. The fees/fee structure agreed with the state education authorities.

The contract was let as a lump sum, competitive tender, therefore there are no fees associated with this project.

3. Any additional fees agreed, such as a performance incentive fees.

None – please refer to response above.

4. Protocols regarding communication with the school community.

Under the terms of the contract, John Holland communicates only with the Superintendent's Representative appointed by the client and therefore does not directly communicate with the school community.

5. Whether requests for detailed project costings have been received from any schools and how these have been dealt with.

No, John Holland has not received requests for detailed project costings from any schools and is unlikely to, given the competitive tendering process.

6. The average costs per square metre being achieved and how these figures relate to costs listed in the current Rawlinson's Construction Handbook/Guide.

No comment – the contract was let under a competitive tendering process.

7. Reporting requirements to state education authorities.

John Holland submits weekly and monthly reports to the Superintendent's Representative and does not report directly to state education authorities.