

Please accept this as our school's (and parish community's) submission towards the abovementioned Inquiry.

- (a) Consideration of the Federal Government's Primary Schools for the 21st Century programme, with particular reference to:
- (i) ***The conditions and criteria for project funding,***
Conditions and criteria set out were informative and clear as to what was, and what wasn't acceptable for funding. Our school carefully studied the documentation and associated notes and dependent on our current needs were able to identify exactly what the funding would achieve for us, i.e. a school hall (no such existing facility)
 - (ii) ***The use of local and non-local contractors,***
Having recently completed our new Junior School facility at end of 2008, the School was permitted to choose the existing builder/contractors and architect. All these individuals were local companies, and were selected initially based on correct tender procedures. Although they have tendered for this current project, they were familiar with our various requirements, environment etc and quoted realistically on the intended project.
 - (iii) ***The role of State governments,***
This has not impacted on us in either a negative or positive way regarding this funding programme.
 - (iv) ***Timing and budget issues, including duplication***
Initially, timing was particularly tight for all aspects of this funding. Fortunately, this was adjusted in numerous instances to a more realistic time frame for various aspects, including completion of project etc. The difficulty was that our school, as I would assume many others also, could not effectively meet some of the time frames as decisions were dependent on approvals from other entities – which were not always received on time. The fact that dates have been continually adjusted has been a positive outcome as it means that reality is being considered by government.
 - (v) ***Requirements for School Signs and Plaques,***
I have absolutely no issue with these requirements and agree that we have an obligation to indicate where public money has been spent.
 - (vi) ***The management of the programme***
Due to the approach the department has taken in listening to us regarding timing, concerns, requests and additional information, all I can say is that all those we have dealt with have been very helpful and understanding. They have guided us from the start and for that I thank them. It would have been great if all related departments,

consultants, Councils, companies were as ready for this as government had intended but not a problem, all is still worthwhile.

I hope that this information is of value to the hearing as we have experienced a fairly positive process whilst undertaking all the required procedures for this funding. The purpose of the funding has certainly been effective in creating work/employment for numerous entities, and in our case these have been predominately from within the local area. The end result will be a facility that will be built within a 12-15 month period that would otherwise not have been built in the near future which will greatly assist our students and staff in enriching their learning environment in academic, pastoral, physical and creative aspects.

Many thanks

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