

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 11

Topic: Committee's inquiry into Government's Primary Schools of the 21st Century program

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

Background

During the EEWR Committee's inquiry into Government's Primary Schools of the 21st Century program which considered the (i) the conditions and criteria for project funding; (ii) the use of local and non-local contractors; (iii) the role of state governments; (iv) timing and budget issues, including duplication; (v) requirements for school signs and plaques; and (vi) the management of the program. There was particular emphasis on 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.

Over the course of these proceedings, DEEWR informed the committee that when signing the national partnership agreement the federal government made it clear that the stimulus funding was additional and that states and territories are required to maintain their funding efforts. DEEWR added that the maintenance of this effort is being monitored by Treasury on a quarterly basis. The Committee was interested in pursuing information relating to the quarterly reports and wrote and received correspondence from the following:

1. Letter from the (acting) Committee Secretary to the Secretary to the Treasury, 2 December 2009 ([PDF 26KB](#))
2. Letter from the Secretary to the Treasury to the (acting) Committee Secretary, 21 December 2009 ([PDF 435KB](#))
3. Letter from the Chair to the Treasurer, 8 February 2010 ([PDF 70KB](#))
4. Second letter from the Chair to the Treasurer, 15 March 2010 ([PDF 57KB](#))
5. Letter from the Treasurer to the Chair, 20 April 2010 ([PDF 232KB](#))
6. Letter from the Chair to Minister Evans, 15 November 2010 ([PDF 117KB](#))
7. Letter from Minister Evans to the Chair, 23 November 2010 ([PDF 398KB](#))
8. Letter to the Members of the Ministerial Council on Federal Financial Relations, 17 December 2010 ([PDF 192KB](#))

Answer:

Refer to the response provided to BET 12.