

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome**            2

**DEEWR Question No. EW0338\_10**

Senator Hanson-Young asked on Wednesday 3 June 2009, EEWWR Hansard page 75-76.

**Question**

*Funding eligibility of nine super-schools in SA*

It has been brought to my attention through the Australian Education Union, that there is concern in the northern part of South Australia over 40 schools that have been earmarked to be amalgamated into these nine superschools. The state government is sending a signal to these schools that they cannot be eligible for this stimulus funding for their school infrastructure unless they sign on to the amalgamation. I would like to get a response from the department about, firstly, whether this is appropriate and, secondly, what we can do to communicate back to these communities.

**Answer**

It is the Commonwealth's intention that all eligible Australian primary schools will receive funding under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. Under the BER Guidelines, where two or more schools have a planned amalgamation over the next three years into either a new school site or an expansion of one of the existing schools, then the indicative funding allocation for the schools to be merged may be combined to be used for capital or refurbishment in the new school.

The Department has been in contact with the South Australian Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) regarding these schools. The Department has been advised that the proposals are at concept stage and that communities have not yet voted on any amalgamation. DECS will, therefore, be submitting BER applications for each school.

The BER Guidelines are available at [www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au).