

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0396\_11**

**Senator Collins asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 122.**

**Question**

**BER - Training Packages**

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Along similar lines, my own high school principal had pointed out that she was particularly impressed with the training packages, so I am interested in what was available for principals and/or project managers in the training packages in terms of managing these types of projects, what the level of utilisation was and whether there is any correlation between the utilisation of those packages and complaints. Mr Manthorpe—That is an interesting dimension of the issue. I am not sure we have any information on that with us today, but we are happy to take that on notice and come back to the committee with some advice. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Thank you. That is it, thank you, Chair.

**Answer**

Education Authorities have advised DEEWR that a range of training materials were made available to principals managing Building the Education Revolution (BER) projects.

In the government sector, the majority of larger construction projects under the *Primary Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and *Science and Language Centres for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Secondary Schools* elements are being centrally managed. In those states/territories where principals were able to self manage a BER project, a range of training materials were provided and these were generally made available on the relevant state/territory education department's website.

For the non-government sector, school principals generally chose not to manage their projects, rather architects or project managers who could oversee the projects were engaged. For those principals who chose to manage their BER project, a range of material, support and assistance was provided by the relevant Block Grant Authority (BGA). DEEWR has been advised that these principals have extensive experience in managing other capital works projects through the Capital Grants program. Additional professional assistance was provided through some BGAs and included project management seminars, the provision of Capital Works Procedures Manuals, and access to central project offices with appropriately skilled staff and consultants.