

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0531\_13

**Senator McKenzie provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Victorian BER projects**

According to the Age, the Baillieu government has been forced to bail out building projects when federal funding dried up, leaving schools without furniture, joinery and landscaping. What communication has the Department had with the Victorian government about this issue? How many Victorian BER projects were under-funded and remained incomplete after the funding for them ran out? Did the Department assist the Victorian Government in working through issues for local schools were projects remained incomplete? REF: State education in red ink after building bailouts (The Age October 10 2012)

**Answer**

It is incorrect to say that Victorian Building the Education Revolution (BER) projects were under-funded. The Victorian State Government has received its BER funding allocation in-full from the Commonwealth.

The Victorian State Government received \$2,544,535,000 for 2,902 projects together with \$32,202,625 in administration funding under the BER program. Administration funding was provided for each state and territory government and non-government education authority for the authorities to manage the delivery of the BER program.

State and territory governments and non-government education authorities were responsible for selecting and nominating the projects and project scope for each of their schools, in consultation with schools and their communities.

The BER Guidelines specify that funding for projects may be used for the fit-out of new buildings or refurbishments to the extent that it is necessary to make them operational for the purpose for which they are designed. This can include furniture, joinery and landscaping, as nominated by the education authority.

As at 31 October 2012, the Victorian State Government had completed 2,878 BER projects, with 24 BER projects yet to complete.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations continues to work closely with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) as the VIC DEECD finalises all BER projects in Victorian State Government schools.

