



16 June 2010



Senator Helen Polley  
Chair  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

**Audit report No.33 2009–10 *Building the Education Revolution—Primary Schools for the 21st Century*: results of survey of school principals**

At a Budget Estimates hearing on 25 May 2010, Senator the Hon Brett Mason expressed an interest in the survey of school principals conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) as part of audit report No.33 2009–10.

The audit report includes the results from the weighted statistical sample of 622 principals at Appendix 2. You may recall that in conducting the survey the ANAO invited all principals to respond, from which the sample was drawn. At the hearing, Senator Mason asked whether the raw data that related to all principals who responded to the survey could be made available to the committee.

To enable ready comparison, the attached document provides the survey results in three ways:

- the stratified sample of 622 school principals, weighted to produce statistically unbiased estimates, as presented in Appendix 2 of the audit report;
- all 3781 respondents, including those in the ANAO sample, weighted to produce statistically unbiased estimates; and
- all 3781 respondents, including those in the ANAO sample, unweighted.

It is important to note that the unweighted results may be affected by response bias.

Responses to other questions taken on notice will be provided in due course.

Yours sincerely

Ian McPhee

## Attachment: School principal survey—sample and all respondent results

The following tables show the results of the ANAO survey of principals, including the results for both all respondents and those in the audit sample. In calculating the percentage results, the ANAO has excluded respondents who indicated that the question was not applicable to them or did not answer the question. The number of respondents to each question is indicated in brackets following the question (for example, if 622 principals responded to a question this would be indicated in brackets [n = 622]).

Three types of results are presented.

- Results for the stratified sample of school principals (622 respondents), weighted to produce statistically unbiased estimates.<sup>1</sup>
- Results for all school principals (3781 respondents), including those in the ANAO sample, weighted to produce statistically unbiased estimates.
- Results for all school principals (3781 respondents), unweighted.

### Consultation

*Which of the following stakeholders (if any) did you consult with in reaching a decision about how your school's BER P21 funding allocation should be used?*

(Multiple responses allowed)	Per cent (sample, n = 621)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3776)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3775)
Parents	68.9	66.2	66.0
Teachers	91.8	92.7	92.7
School council/board	56.5	59.9	58.9
Parents and citizens' organisation	55.2	57.1	58.0
Students	27.6	25.9	25.9
Other	13.7	15.2	15.1
None of the above	2.8	1.4	1.4

*Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the consultation under the BER P21 program:*

... It was made clear to me what level of consultation I was expected to undertake with my school community about how our BER P21 funding should be used.

... My school community was appropriately consulted as part of the decision making process under the BER P21 program.

	Per cent (sample, n = 618)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3765)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3765)		Per cent (sample, n = 619)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3765)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3765)
Strongly Agree	9.9	14.2	14.2	Strongly Agree	11.4	15.3	15.4
Agree	55.3	51.8	51.9	Agree	63.0	56.9	57.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	16.7	14.0	14.2	Neither Agree nor Disagree	12.0	12.5	12.6
Disagree	13.8	14.8	14.8	Disagree	10.0	10.9	10.5
Strongly Disagree	3.9	4.3	4.0	Strongly Disagree	2.8	3.6	3.3
Don't Know/Can't Say	0.3	0.9	0.9	Don't Know/Can't Say	0.8	0.9	1.0

<sup>1</sup> Appropriate weighting is needed to ensure that no sub-set of the overall population is over-represented in the results. Weighting adjusts the raw survey data to ensure the results represent the views of the population as a whole, including for example certain stratum of the population that are under-represented in the responses received. In this case the weights were assigned to respondents according to what Education Authority they came from, to ensure that under-represented or over-represented Education Authorities, were represented appropriately in the overall results.

... I had sufficient time to consult with my school community about how its BER P21 funding allocation should be used.

	Per cent (sample, n = 620)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3768)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3767)
Strongly Agree	6.0	6.6	6.7
Agree	39.0	39.4	40.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	9.3	11.3	11.3
Disagree	33.2	29.9	29.5
Strongly Disagree	11.9	12.2	11.5
Don't Know/Can't Say	0.6	0.7	0.7

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the consultation under the BER P21 program:

... Consultation with my school community enabled a consensus to be reached about how our BER P21 funding should be used.

	Per cent (sample, n = 617)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3761)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3761)
Strongly Agree	13.2	15.7	15.7
Agree	59.6	54.3	54.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	15.6	15.3	15.4
Disagree	7.7	9.8	9.5
Strongly Disagree	3.3	4.0	3.7
Don't Know/Can't Say	0.7	1.0	1.0

... The preferences of my school community were appropriately taken into account in the decision that was made about how its BER P21 funding allocation will be used.

	Per cent (sample, n = 617)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3762)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3761)
Strongly Agree	15.9	19.6	19.8
Agree	60.7	54.2	54.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	9.8	10.8	10.8
Disagree	7.5	8.5	8.2
Strongly Disagree	5.6	5.8	5.5
Don't Know/Can't Say	0.6	1.0	1.1

Was the funding allocated to your school under the BER P21 program less than the indicative funding cap established in the program guidelines as applicable to a school of your size?

	Per cent (sample, n = 618)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3759)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3758)
Yes	10.3	10.9	10.5
No	77.4	76.8	77.7
Don't know	12.4	12.3	11.8

If funding allocated to your school under the BER P21 program was less than the indicative funding cap established in the program guidelines as applicable to a school of your size, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

... I was consulted about the decision to allocate my school less than the indicative funding levels set out in the BER program guidelines.

	Per cent (sample, n = 55)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 401)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 384)
Strongly Agree	16.1	11.5	11.5
Agree	12.1	29.2	28.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	21.2	13.1	13.5
Disagree	19.5	26.0	25.8
Strongly Disagree	31.1	20.3	20.3

... I understand the basis for the decision to allocate my school less than the indicative funding levels set out in the BER program guidelines.

	Per cent (sample, n = 54)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 396)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 380)
Strongly Agree	16.5	13.6	13.4
Agree	24.1	38.7	38.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	29.3	18.4	18.7
Disagree	3.3	14.5	14.7
Strongly Disagree	26.8	14.8	14.5

... The decision to allocate my school less than the indicative funding levels set out in the BER program guidelines was reasonable.

	Per cent (sample, n = 54)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 398)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 381)
Strongly Agree	9.5	11.8	11.5
Agree	32.3	26.0	26.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	30.6	21.6	22.0
Disagree	3.5	21.2	21.0
Strongly Disagree	24.1	19.5	19.2

### The application process

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the application process:

... The clarity of the guidance you received about the BER P21 application process.

	Per cent (sample, n = 616)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3746)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3746)
Very Satisfied	8.8	10.7	11.1
Satisfied	53.5	52.3	53.0
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	17.3	17.6	17.4
Dissatisfied	16.7	16.0	15.5
Very Dissatisfied	3.7	3.3	3.1

... The time-frame for submission of your school's application for BER P21 funding.

	Per cent (sample, n = 614)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3744)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3744)
Very Satisfied	4.5	5.7	5.9
Satisfied	32.4	36.8	37.7
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	19.5	16.3	16.3
Dissatisfied	33.8	31.4	30.8
Very Dissatisfied	9.8	9.8	9.2

... Alignment of the options for funding under the BER P21 program guidelines with the priorities of your school.

	Per cent (sample, n = 614)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3739)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3738)
Very Satisfied	14.0	14.9	15.2
Satisfied	49.9	46.4	47.0
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	12.1	14.4	14.4
Dissatisfied	17.0	17.3	16.8
Very Dissatisfied	6.9	7.0	6.6

... Your school's ability to choose the option or mix of options most appropriate to its needs.

	Per cent (sample, n = 614)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3734)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3734)
Very Satisfied	14.6	16.6	17.2
Satisfied	46.5	42.9	43.5
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	9.8	11.8	11.9
Dissatisfied	19.2	20.2	19.5
Very Dissatisfied	9.9	8.5	7.9

... The outcome of your school's application for BER P21 funding.

	Per cent (sample, n = 613)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3737)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3736)
Very Satisfied	32.6	32.8	33.8
Satisfied	44.5	45.5	45.4
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	12.8	12.4	12.0
Dissatisfied	7.0	6.1	5.8
Very Dissatisfied	3.1	3.3	2.9



## The design of your school's BER P21 project or projects

Has a design for your school's project or projects been completed?

	Per cent (sample, n = 617)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3750)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3750)
Yes	72.5	76.2	75.8
No	27.5	23.8	24.2

If a design for your school's project or projects has been completed, what was the design of the BER P21 program option provided to your school based on?

(Multiple responses allowed)	Per cent (sample, n = 505)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2786)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2774)
A template provided by the education authority	51.7	51.9	49.7
A design my school already had prior to the establishment of the BER P21 program	10.8	10.7	11.2
A new design (not from a template) developed specifically for my school for the purposes of the BER P21 program	43.8	43.5	45.5

Who commissioned the design for your school's BER P21 project?

	Per cent (sample, n = 503)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2783)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2771)
My school	32.9	32.9	35.2
My school system	13.8	17.9	17.6
My education authority	53.3	49.3	47.2

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the design of your school's BER P21 project or projects:

... I understand what is included in the design of my school's BER P21 project or projects.

... The design of my school's BER P21 project or projects is appropriate to its needs.

	Per cent (sample, n = 503)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2797)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2784)		Per cent (sample, n = 503)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2796)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2783)
Strongly Agree	30.0	32.1	33.5	Strongly Agree	32.7	31.7	33.3
Agree	50.4	51.1	51.0	Agree	46.5	47.7	47.4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	7.7	5.4	5.2	Neither Agree nor Disagree	8.4	8.0	7.7
Disagree	9.6	7.5	6.8	Disagree	7.6	8.3	7.8
Strongly Disagree	2.3	3.5	3.1	Strongly Disagree	3.3	3.1	2.8
Don't Know/ Can't Say		0.4	0.4	Don't Know/ Can't Say	1.5	1.1	1.0

... I am satisfied with the opportunity I have had to provide input into the design of my school's BER P21 project or projects.

... I have been appropriately consulted about important design considerations as they arose.

	Per cent (sample, n = 502)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2790)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2777)		Per cent (sample, n = 501)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 2789)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 2776)
Strongly Agree	29.8	31.9	33.9	Strongly Agree	30.8	31.6	33.6
Agree	34.9	34.1	34.9	Agree	36.7	35.9	36.4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	11.8	10.2	9.8	Neither Agree nor Disagree	11.7	11.2	10.6
Disagree	16.1	14.5	13.1	Disagree	13.1	11.8	10.8
Strongly Disagree	7.5	8.7	7.8	Strongly Disagree	5.8	7.8	7.0
Don't Know/ Can't Say		0.6	0.5	Don't Know/ Can't Say	1.9	1.7	1.6

... if the schools project design is based on a template, there is a large degree of flexibility and customization possible in using the template(s) on which the design of my school's BER P21 project or projects is based.

	Per cent (sample, n = 127)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1437)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1368)
Strongly Agree	4.5	4.8	5.6
Agree	15.5	14.0	15.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	8.0	13.5	14.0
Disagree	29.7	28.2	27.6
Strongly Disagree	40.2	36.8	34.7
Don't Know/ Can't Say	2.2	2.7	2.6

#### Construction of your school's BER P21 project or projects

Who built (or will build) your school's BER P21 project?

	Per cent (sample, n = 610)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3668)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3667)
A contractor or contractors engaged directly by my school	20.1	19.7	21.4
A contractor or contractors engaged by my school system	17.3	21.3	20.7
A contractor or contractors engaged by my education authority	56.3	52.5	51.3
Other	6.3	6.5	6.5

Has construction of your school's BER P21 project commenced [by commencement, we mean has there been any physical work on the school site, beyond, for example, erection of the site fence]? [n = 611]

	Per cent (sample)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3703)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3701)
Yes	34.1	30.6	31.2
No	65.9	69.4	68.8

If construction has commenced, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

... The contractor or contractors appointed to manage BER P21 construction activity at my school has been responsive to the school's needs.

... BER P21 construction activity is being managed in such a way as to minimise disruption to my school.

	Per cent (sample, n = 267)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1113)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1134)		Per cent (sample, n = 267)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1113)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1134)
Strongly Agree	44.2	53.6	54.7	Strongly Agree	48.4	53.5	54.4
Agree	50.5	39.5	38.7	Agree	45.3	39.3	38.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	2.9	4.3	4.1	Neither Agree nor Disagree	3.0	3.4	3.3
Disagree	1.6	2.0	1.9	Disagree	2.7	2.7	2.6
Strongly Disagree	0.7	0.6	0.5	Strongly Disagree	0.5	1.0	1.0

... BER P21 construction activity is being managed in such a way as to minimise health and safety risks to students, staff and parents, and members of the public.

	Per cent (sample, n = 267)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1112)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1134)
Strongly Agree	56.0	60.8	61.7
Agree	40.0	35.5	34.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3.4	2.5	2.4
Disagree	0.4	0.5	0.4
Strongly Disagree	0.2	0.8	0.7

## Reporting

Are you required to provide information on a regular basis to your education authority, to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations under the BER P21 program?

	Per cent (sample, n = 605)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3632)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3628)
Yes	41.9	43.4	44.8
No	58.1	56.6	55.2

If you are required to provide regular reports to your Education Authority, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

... BER P21 reporting requirements are clear.

... BER P21 reporting requirements have been consistent.

	Per cent (sample, n = 382)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1572)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1662)		Per cent (sample, n = 382)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1569)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1619)
Strongly Agree	13.4	12.7	13.0	Strongly Agree	13.4	12.6	12.8
Agree	53.9	53.5	54.3	Agree	53.0	50.6	51.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	21.9	22.3	21.5	Neither Agree nor Disagree	22.9	25.5	24.2
Disagree	10.4	9.7	9.5	Disagree	9.6	9.3	9.5
Strongly Disagree	0.4	1.9	1.7	Strongly Disagree	1.1	2.0	2.0

... The reports that I provide will give program managers a meaningful understanding of our school's progress in implementing the BER P21 program and of work completed to date.

... BER P21 reporting requirements are manageable.

	Per cent (sample, n = 380)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1563)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1613)		Per cent (sample, n = 382)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1567)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1617)
Strongly Agree	11.8	11.7	11.8	Strongly Agree	12.9	11.2	11.3
Agree	54.0	51.1	52.3	Agree	50.3	48.8	49.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	26.5	28.9	27.7	Neither Agree nor Disagree	32.0	33.4	32.6
Disagree	7.3	6.8	6.7	Disagree	4.9	5.7	5.7
Strongly Disagree	0.3	1.6	1.5	Strongly Disagree	0.0	1.0	0.9

#### Opportunity to communicate concerns about BER decisions

*Have you, or anyone in your school community communicated a concern or complaint about the BER P21 program?*

	Per cent (sample, n = 609)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3686)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3686)
Yes	33.4	31.4	30.1
No	66.6	68.6	69.9

*Are you aware of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' role in resolving implementation issues with the BER P21 program?*

	Per cent (sample, n = 610)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3690)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3688)
Yes	30.7	30.1	30.6
No	69.3	69.9	69.4

*If you are aware of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' role in resolving implementation issues with the BER P21 program, have you or anyone in your school community taken any concern or complaint to the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations about the BER P21 program?*

	Per cent (sample, n = 223)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 1095)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 1113)
Yes	3.6	5.0	4.9
No	96.4	95.0	95.1

*If you or anyone in your school community taken any concern or complaint to the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations about the BER P21 program, were you satisfied with the way in which the concern or complaint was dealt with?*

	Per cent (sample, n = 9)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 52)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 51)
Yes	13.0	48.9	51.0
No	87.0	51.1	49.0



## Progress and outcomes

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements

... My school's BER P21 project is supporting local employment.

	Per cent (sample, n = 611)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3702)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3701)
Strongly Agree	23.5	20.8	21.7
Agree	34.9	33.8	34.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	14.4	15.1	14.8
Disagree	4.7	6.8	6.6
Strongly Disagree	6.2	6.0	5.6
Don't Know/ Can't Say	16.2	17.5	16.9

... I am confident my school's BER P21 project will be completed within the required timeframe.

	Per cent (sample, n = 610)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3696)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3695)
Strongly Agree	14.9	14.8	15.2
Agree	30.6	32.1	32.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	23.6	20.2	20.0
Disagree	12.4	11.0	10.8
Strongly Disagree	6.4	7.6	7.1
Don't Know/ Can't Say	12.0	14.3	14.0

... The use of BER P21 money for my school represents value for money.

	Per cent (sample, n = 610)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3694)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3692)
Strongly Agree	20.6	23.0	23.9
Agree	27.8	27.8	28.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	16.8	14.5	14.3
Disagree	16.1	12.6	12.2
Strongly Disagree	12.8	12.7	12.2
Don't Know/ Can't Say	5.7	9.5	9.3

... I am confident BER P21 program funding will help children, families and communities participate in activities that will support achievement, develop learning potential and bring communities together.

	Per cent (sample, n = 612)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3703)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3702)
Strongly Agree	41.4	43.9	44.9
Agree	44.8	40.5	40.1
Neither Agree nor Disagree	9.1	9.4	9.1
Disagree	0.9	2.6	2.4
Strongly Disagree	2.7	1.6	1.5
Don't Know/ Can't Say	1.2	2.0	2.0

... I am confident the BER P21 program will enhance the teaching and learning environment in my school.

	Per cent (sample, n = 612)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3705)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3704)
Strongly Agree	55.0	57.0	58.0
Agree	37.0	35.7	35.0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	5.2	4.3	4.1
Disagree	0.9	1.3	1.2
Strongly Disagree	1.4	0.7	0.6
Don't Know/ Can't Say	0.5	1.1	1.1

... I am confident BER P21 program funding will provide an improvement to my school, which will be of ongoing value to my school and school community.

	Per cent (sample, n = 613)	Per cent (all respondents, n = 3705)	Per cent (all respondents, unweighted, n = 3703)
Strongly Agree	60.8	61.7	62.5
Agree	34.5	32.7	32.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	2.5	3.1	2.9
Disagree	1.0	1.0	0.9
Strongly Disagree	0.7	0.5	0.5
Don't Know/ Can't Say	0.5	1.0	0.9