



# MEDIA STATEMENT

To News Editors and Chiefs of Staff  
From Garry Le Duff  
Ref ***SA Independent schools most effective users of BER***  
Date 8 July 2011

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## **ORGILL REPORT CONFIRMS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BER SUCCESS**

The release today of the third and final report into the Building the Education Revolution (BER), conducted by Brad Orgill, has confirmed the success of South Australian Independent schools in swiftly and efficiently building quality facilities for local schools.

In his report Mr Orgill says Independent and Catholic schools “across the country, accounting for 31 per cent of the (BER) program, have generally grasped the opportunity to build quality new school facilities integrated into their school campuses” (p12).

“In non-government schools the building work observed by the Taskforce has been consistently good or high quality,” Mr Orgill’s report says (p11).

The Orgill report reinforces recent Federal Government figures which showed South Australian Independent schools topped the nation in the swift and efficient construction of school buildings under the BER program (see table on p3).

As a result, Independent schools have created a wave of cutting-edge science, linguistics, early learning and physical education and library facilities.

South Australian Independent schools have spent 98.8% of allocated BER funds – the most efficient and fastest of any Government, Catholic or Independent school sector in all States and Territories.

The Association of Independent Schools of SA (AISSA) Executive Director, Garry Le Duff, said the success of Independent schools stems from readiness and decisiveness at the local community level, backed by specialist support from AISSA staff when and where needed.

“Schools knew what they wanted, did their own procurement and directly engaged builders and contractors,” said Mr Le Duff.

“Our schools’ readiness was a key to success. Schools had complete control over their own projects, which, almost without exception, already were priorities on their master plans.

The Association at short notice in 2009 assembled a specialist project team for its 96 member schools to help them meet deadlines, brief architects, appoint project managers and turn plans into action.

"In country schools in particular, local tradespeople were strongly involved. This local, accountable commitment facilitated the early delivery of many projects," said Mr Le Duff.

Below is a small cross-section of the 115 BER projects undertaken by Independent schools in South Australia. Of this total, 110 projects have been completed and the remaining will be finished shortly.

**Portside Christian College** (Principal Johan Griesel, Tel: 8341 5133)

1. A large multi-purpose hall/gym was integrated into a small urban school site (total spend of \$2,093,000 including BER funding of \$2 million)
2. A science and language centre enhancing teaching at high school level (total spend of \$976,000 including BER funding of \$875,000)

**Southern Vales Christian College** (Principal Andrew Clayton, Tel: 8556 6118)

1. Innovative science education facility combining laboratory area and open teaching spaces (BER funding of \$1,898,000)
2. Large multi-purpose hall (total spend of \$2,509,000 including BER funding of \$2,498,000)

**Immanuel Primary School** (Acting Principal Luke Schoff, Tel: 8294 8422)

1. A new library (total spend of \$1,313,000 including BER funding of \$1,297,000)
2. A new Early Learning Centre for pre-school children (total spend of \$1,703,000 including BER funding of \$1,699,000)

Each of these principals and their schools may be contacted directly for comment and information.

**ALTERNATIVE VISION: Pictures of BER projects in local areas can be arranged.**

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**The following page contains a table of national BER spending published in *The Australian*.**

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SCHOOLS SECTOR	BER FUNDING (incl. interest & admin)	COMMITTED	SPENT
<b>Government total</b>	<b>\$10,969,818,941</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>86.9%</b>
NSW	\$3,423,383,043	93.7%	89.3%
VIC	\$2,544,385,000	98.4%	82.8%
QLD	\$2,113,642,625	99.8%	88%
WA	\$1,258,318,316	99.4%	84.2%
SA	\$944,795,831	97%	88.3%
TAS	\$327,409,042	99.9%	91.8%
NT	\$206,285,000	90.3%	83.2%
ACT	\$151,600,084	99.9%	97.7%
<b>Catholic total</b>	<b>\$3,235,941,992</b>	<b>99.1%</b>	<b>89.4%</b>
NSW	\$1,028,292,675	99.9%	85.4%
VIC	\$849,521,677	99.7%	96.7%
QLD	\$572,414,122	96.8%	85.3%
WA	\$325,477,089	99.9%	88.2%
SA	\$229,253,000	100%	95.6%
TAS	\$74,692,357	99.6%	83.1%
NT	\$63,858,790	97.1%	89.7%
ACT	\$92,432,282	94.3%	87.9%
<b>Independent total</b>	<b>\$1,756,839,429</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>93.6%</b>
NSW	\$533,677,848	99.5%	88.2%
VIC	\$381,429,229	99%	96.3%
QLD	\$383,390,020	99.7%	97.8%
WA	\$221,933,987	95.9%	89.2%
SA	\$198,122,667	99.9%	98.8%
TAS	\$38,285,678	100%	97.8%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$15,962,600,362</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>88.2%</b>

Note: Figures do not include 1.5 per cent paid to education authorities to manage the BER

Table prepared by *The Australian* from figures provided to it by the Federal Government and published on 3 June 2011