

December, 2011

BER Success

South Australia's Independent schools have just completed all of their projects funded by the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) infrastructure program.

This is a remarkable achievement. The Independent sector in South Australia is at the forefront of all school sectors – State, Catholic and Independent – across the nation to finish BER projects. More than 90 Independent schools have completed their projects on time and on budget. It involved more than \$200 million in BER funding topped up with more than \$41 million from local communities.

The last of the 262 Independent school projects to be completed was opened this month (December) at Horizon Christian School, Balaklava, with a \$2.3 million project that delivered a new gymnasium, library resource centre and language centre for this regional community.

Independent schools' rapid and effective responses to the BER program resulting in the swift, accountable and efficient use of public money. They delivered an immediate construction stimulus that will improve the educational experience of thousands upon thousands of students for decades to come.

The readiness of Independent school communities to take on the BER program was vital to their success. All Independent schools had complete and local community control over their projects. In many

instances these were projects already on the drawing board, which means BER gave life to much-needed and long sought-after facilities.