



Australian Government

# Nation Building

**ECONOMIC  
STIMULUS  
PLAN**



**MARCH 2009**

## Building the Education Revolution Update

### KEY DATES

<b>Early April</b>	NSP Round 1 successful applications announced
<b>10 April</b>	Final date for Round 1 P21 applications
<b>Late April</b>	P21 Round 1 successful applications announced
<b>8 May</b>	Final date for Round 2 NSP program applications
<b>15 May</b>	Final Date for Round 2 P21 applications
<b>Late May</b>	NSP Round 2 successful applications
<b>31 May</b>	Final date for Round 1 (only round) SLC program applications
<b>Early June</b>	P21 Round 2 successful applications announced

### Update

Seven weeks have passed since the Government announced the Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Plan on 5 February which included a \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution (BER) investment in all Australian schools.

Since then, a BER Taskforce has been established and has been working closely with all states, territories and Block Grant Authorities on this exciting initiative. The construction of world class school facilities, learning environments and general maintenance will begin across the nation as early as next month.

These works not only benefit the schools but will support jobs at a local level and importantly help stimulate the current Australian economy. The year ahead will be a busy and highly rewarding time for all involved. This program is a great opportunity for schools and their communities to really invest in the future of Australia. Below is some helpful information when submitting applications for the three key elements of the BER.

It is the responsibility of the Relevant Education Authorities (REAs) to manage the application process in the first instance. Schools are encouraged to speak to their REAs about any application.

A full list of REA contacts are available at [www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au).

### National School Pride Program (NSP)

NSP will provide funding to every Australian school—primary and secondary, government and non-government—to undertake construction of small scale infrastructure and/or minor refurbishment projects. Projects that can be approved for funding under this element of BER include:

- refurbishment of buildings
- construction or upgrades of fixed shade structures
- covered outdoor learning areas
- sporting grounds and facilities
- green upgrades (water tanks) and insulation
- specialised infrastructure support for students with disabilities or special needs

Funding for purchase of equipment rather than small scale infrastructure or minor refurbishment may not be approved by the Commonwealth. Funding can not be used for installation or refurbishment of air conditioning or heating.

**Applications for Round 1 of NSP closed on 24 March 2009** with an announcement of the successful schools due shortly. The second and final round of NSP will close on 8 May 2009. Schools not funded in NSP Round 1 need to work closely with their Education Authority to ensure they receive funding in NSP Round 2 by submitting funding project(s) that meet the BER Guidelines for NSP.

Successful NSP Round 1 schools will need to work closely with their Education Authority to ensure all their school's projects are completed by 20 December 2009.



## Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21)

The P21 element of BER funding can be used for capital expenditure on the following items (in order of priority):

- construction of 21st century libraries
- construction of new multipurpose halls or, in the case of smaller schools, covered outdoor learning areas
- construction of classrooms, replacement of demountables or other building to be approved by the Commonwealth; or
- refurbishment of existing facilities.

A primary school may apply for funding for up to 2 projects under the P21 element, as long as the total funding of the projects does not exceed the notional total P21 funding allocation for that school.

Applications for Round 1 of P21 will close on 10 April with announcements of successful funding recipients anticipated in late April. P21 Application Round 2 and Round 3 will close in May and July respectively.

## Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools (SLC)

The SLC initiative provides secondary schools with a great opportunity to create learning environments to meet the needs of tomorrow. Science classrooms will be transformed into state of the art contemporary science laboratories, while language centres will be built to equip our leaders of tomorrow with essential skills and study in languages of our key regional neighbours and beyond. This element of BER will be a highly beneficial initiative and we encourage all eligible schools to submit proposals.

REAs will conduct a competitive process seeking expressions of interest from secondary schools within their sector. They will then submit a prioritised short-list of projects for funding to the Commonwealth according to the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrated need or disadvantage—need demonstrated by providing relevant evidence (quantitative and qualitative) to establish disadvantaged schools and school communities.**
2. **Demonstrated need for the specified building—the school does not have a contemporary science building/laboratory or a language learning centre, or any existing facilities of that kind or they are inadequate for the school's current or emerging needs.**
3. **Demonstrated readiness and capacity to begin and complete construction of the building within the 2009–10 financial year.**

A National Assessment Panel (NAP) will assess applications against the assessment criteria. NAP recommendations will go to the Minister for Education, to make the final decisions about successful applications and the final funding amount.

Applications for SLC will close on 31 May with announcements of successful funding recipients anticipated in June. This will be the only round for SLC.

Further information on the BER is available at [www.australia.gov.au/economicstimulus](http://www.australia.gov.au/economicstimulus) or [www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au).