

**Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network**  
**Answers to Questions on Notice**  
**Public Hearing 30 October 2012**  
**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**  
**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

**Questions No: 38**

**Hansard Ref: In writing**

**Topic: Community Engagement and Education**

**The Committee asked:**

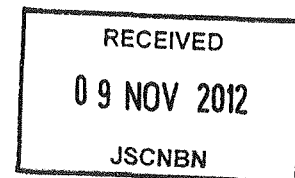
What is being done to ensure that schools in rural and remote communities have the infrastructure and resources to take advantage of the NBN?

**Answer:**

All Australian schools will be connected to the NBN. NBN Co is offering layer 2 wholesale services which retail service providers (RSPs) can use to provide a range of high-quality services to schools such as enterprise WAN broadband services. Schools can work with their chosen RSP to customise the products and services they require over their NBN connection.

The Digital Education Revolution (DER) also aims to support the effective integration of information and communication technology (ICT) in Australian schools in line with the Government's broader education initiatives. The Government has invested over \$2.1 billion in the DER to significantly increase ICT infrastructure available in schools, online content and resources. The National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Computer Fund) is helping schools to provide access to new ICT equipment for secondary students in Years 9 to 12. The overall aim of the Computer Fund was to achieve a one to one computer to student ratio (1:1 ratio) for students in Years 9 to 12 by the end of 2011. The Computer Fund is a universal access program and is assisting secondary schools in the State, Catholic and Independent sectors, regardless of location.

The Government has also provided up to \$27.2 million to source, develop and implement deployment trials that will use the NBN to deliver online and interactive education, training and skills services. Under the program, 12 projects are being funded to demonstrate how the NBN can increase the education, training, and skills development opportunities for Australians, no matter where they live, work or study, and especially for those Australians who find it difficult to attend classes because of work commitments or family responsibilities.



**@5.52 pm**