

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1226_12

Senator Mason asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 87

Question

BER school closures

Senator MASON: Can you tell me how many schools have been closed down subsequent to receiving funding from the BER? Do we know that? Mr Thomas: I would have to take that on notice. We responded to a question on notice from the last estimates regarding schools that have closed since their project was completed, but that is a different angle on that question. Senator MASON: It is. If you can take that on notice, and also what is the combined cost of those BER projects for those schools that closed down. Mr Thomas: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Answer

As at 9 May 2012, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has been advised by the relevant state, territory or non-government education authorities of 32 schools that have closed subsequent to being approved for Building the Education Revolution (BER) program funding.

Of the 32 schools that have closed subsequent to being approved for BER funding, the following is a summary of DEEWR's assessment of the circumstances:

- A new school has taken over the site and is utilising the facility or items on which the funds were expended.
- The facility or items on which the funds were expended were able to be moved to another school.
- The BER funds have been returned either in full or in part to the Commonwealth.
- The assessment is ongoing.

The amount of BER funding expended at schools that have closed and where DEEWR has assessed the facility or items on which the funds were expended as not being able to be moved to another school, or returned either in full or in part to the Commonwealth, is \$865,702.