

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010–11**

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office

**Topic:** Audit report No.33 2009–10 *Building the Education Revolution—Primary Schools for the 21st Century*

**Senator:** Scott Ryan

**Question reference number:** PM91 (a, b, c, d)

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 1 (1 page in attachment)

**Question 91a**—*Following the receipt of a letter from the President of the Senate regarding a Senate resolution requesting the Auditor-General undertake an urgent investigation of ‘waste and mismanagement of the BER program’, did the ANAO have any correspondence with the President of the Senate regarding the audit?*

**Answer:** As discussed at the committee hearing of 25 May 2010 (Hansard p44) the Auditor-General received a letter from the President of the Senate on 7 July 2009 outlining the motion that was passed in the Senate and the Auditor-General responded on 24 July 2009. In that response of 24 July 2009 the Auditor-General set out the objective and scope of the audit that was conducted by the ANAO.

**Question 91b**—*If so can the ANAO please provide copies of that correspondence?*

**Answer:** A copy of the letter of 24 July 2009 is attached.

**Question 91c**—*Given the view of the Auditor-General that he cannot undertake performance audits of the projects funded by the Commonwealth but delivered by state and territory agencies, has the ANAO undertaken any correspondence with the various state Auditors-General regarding the BER program?*

**Answer:** No correspondence was undertaken between the Commonwealth Auditor-General and his State/Territory counterparts regarding the BER program. Early in the course of the performance audit, officer-level conversations were held with various state and territory audit offices to advise them of the scope of the ANAO audit and to gain an understanding of any planned audit activity on their part in relation to BER P21.

**Question 91d**—*If so, could the ANAO provide copies of that correspondence?*

**Answer:** see answer to question 91c.