



MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2009

Building grants for independent schools welcomed

New South Wales independent schools today welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement of the schools that would benefit from the first round of funding under the Rudd Government's *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) program.

"On behalf of the 198 independent schools in New South Wales to benefit from this funding, I thank the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, for this valuable contribution to school infrastructure and maintenance", said Dr Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

Small scale infrastructure and refurbishment projects in NSW independent schools worth \$28.2 million were announced this morning in the first round of the *National School Pride* component of the BER program.

Dr Newcombe said: "Schools are eager to commence work on these projects and are grateful not just for the benefits they will bring to the quality of the education they provide to their students, but also for the positive impact they will have on their local communities in providing jobs and stimulating the local economy".

"One of the most pleasing aspects of the Government's initiative is that all schools and families, regardless of the type of school, will be able to benefit from the Building the Education Revolution. The Deputy Prime Minister has our strong support and we congratulate her on the speed and efficiency with which the first round of the project has been conducted", said Dr Newcombe.

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