

BUILDING EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Is your OSHC service experiencing undue hardship because of the initiative of the Australian Government?

The OSHC SA Association is supportive of any initiative that invests money in infrastructure for children and so we applaud the Building Education Revolution stimulus spending (BER). We are also quick to recognise that any redevelopment of a school site will bring with it disruption for many people who work on that site.

As part of a recent meeting of our national peak group, NOSHSA, here in Adelaide a delegation met with Kate Ellis, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth. As part of this meeting the national impact of the BER was discussed – in some states and territories there are very few difficulties being experienced by OSHC services but in NSW, WA & SA there are some instances where there are complex expectations being asked of OSHC services and their staff. This was clearly never the intent of the BER funding.

The Association position on this is as follows:

- At the local level ensure that those making the decisions about the school site are fully and rationally informed of the impact the plans will have on the OSHC service;
 1. Will the service be able to continue to meet the OSHC Standards SA
 2. Will the service be able to provide care to meet the current demand
 3. Will there be removal costs and is this factored into the budget for the project
 4. If relocation is required who will undertake the process
 5. If there is a rent component arising because of OSHC relocation, is this factored into the overall site redevelopment budget
 6. Is there certainty that at the end of the process the OSHC service will be able to have equal or improved facilities?
 7. Have OSHC families been informed of facts as they may be able to advocate effectively for the service through the governing council.
 8. Keep diary notes of meetings and discussions. It might also be useful to record additional time taken to manage the OSHC aspects of a BER project
- If you still consider that your voice is not being heard, contact the relevant DECS OSHC Advisor and seek their immediate recommendation and support.
- After these 2 steps if you are still really concerned, contact the OSHC Association and we will support you to take further steps.