

EDITORIAL

Never look a gift horse in the mouth, unless, of course, the gift is from the Commonwealth government through the intermediary offices of the various state education departments, in which case you should check the hoofs as well. Some state school principals and council members have asked why they're only permitted to spend the money they've received through the Commonwealth government's \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution program on design templates for developments that don't adequately meet their needs. Some, like Beaconsfield Upper Primary School council president Gavin McGill, have also asked whether there's some shortchanging going on. As McGill explained on ABC's *Stateline Victoria* in June, the school's inadequate multi-purpose hall would be replaced by something even smaller. As McGill said, 'The options that have been given to us for \$2 million of funding have been costed at \$900,000, so the...question we're asking is, if we accept one of these options, where's the other \$1.1 million going?' The answer, in Beaconsfield Upper Primary School's case, turned out to be Beaconsfield Upper. The school was advised it would get the full-size gymnasium with extras it wanted, after the *Stateline* story screened. **1**

QUILL AWARD WINNER

Teacher was honoured in the 2008 Melbourne Press Club Quill Awards when Steve Holden took out the Best Columnist: highly commended award for his Last Word column.



FAST FACTS

- Proportion of Year 4 to Year 9 students who are bullied every few weeks or more often: one in four.
- Years in which frequent bullying is the highest: Year 5 – 32 per cent of students; and Year 8 – 29 per cent.
- Percentage of students who bully others every few weeks or more often: nine per cent.
- Percentage of boys who bully others: 11 per cent.
- Percentage of girls: seven per cent.
- Year with the lowest prevalence for bullying others – 26 per cent: Year 4.
- Year with the highest prevalence for bullying others – 55 per cent: Year 9.
- Percentage of students who have experienced cyberbullying: between seven and 10 per cent
- Percentage of students who report being cyberbullied, or whose cyberbullying experience has been observed by staff: 20 per cent.

Source: Cross, D., Shaw, T., Hearn, L., Epstein, M., Monks, H., Lester, L. & Thomas, L. (2009). *Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study*. Perth: Child Health Promotion Research Centre, Edith Cowan University.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Can arts participation have a positive impact on student learning?
2. Who wrote *Champions of Change: The impact of the arts on learning*?
3. What does 'Wakakirri' mean?
4. Who described the \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution as 'the largest single school modernisation program in Australia's history'?
5. What did England's General Teaching Council Professional Conduct Committee do when Alex Dolan reported on chaotic classrooms, discipline problems, chronic staffing shortages and the manipulation of exam results?
6. When was the birthday of the Australian Constitution?
7. Who said, 'We need respectfully to challenge people about where they've set the bar'?
8. Who wrote 'Goals gone wild'?
9. Who said, 'Dogma, in religion or science, is anathema to education'?
10. Photocopiers have built-in circuits which detect urgency and the emotional stress of the person using the machine. True or false?

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