

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINE – CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM

USE OF AREA GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

1. Background

In assessing a Project's eligibility for a Grant, the Commonwealth requires the BGA to aim for a Minimum Viable Project that meets the objectives of the Capital Grants Program (CGP), is based on sound student enrolment projections for the period closely following the completion of the project, meets the educational needs of the school in a way that is cost effective over the life of the facilities and takes appropriate account of the value of good quality materials and building and design practices. [CGP Guidelines 28 a) b) c) d)].

Historically¹ it was a requirement of the Capital Grants Program (CGP) to adhere to strict global area guidelines for Primary and Secondary facilities. Global area calculations are no longer documented in the CGP Guidelines however the Commonwealth recognises that a BGA may use a global area standard as part of their project evaluation process if it so chooses.

The BGA has adopted the area standards of 7.5m²/student for Primary facilities and 12m²/student for Secondary facilities. These measurements are used as a guide only when determining practicality of a project.

Educational facilities have evolved over time and include innovative and flexible learning environments that replace the traditional classroom. New flexible spaces encourage varied teaching and learning approaches such as teachers to work in teams and work in spaces that are transparent. The future direction of facilities requires more space than a traditional classroom to incorporate breakout space, wellness areas and outdoor learning.

2. Considerations

In considering a school's application for a Capital Grant, the BGA takes into account the total building area of a school, excluding only the area of any buildings used for boarding purposes and BER Projects (refer 3.1 below).

The BGA considers buildings on a school campus for all levels of education that are available, or will be available, for staff and/or student use for educational purposes in the relevant data year. This includes facilities that are permanent, temporary, owned, leased, unused, under construction or planned at the time of the application.

Unenclosed travel areas, canteen, staff amenities and plant rooms are automatically discounted in full. In addition, the Committee has discretion to discount areas in certain circumstances for example, unused rooms/buildings that cannot be economically renovated.

3. Procedural Guidelines

The following guidelines outline the way in which the Committee approaches requests for the discounting of areas in various situations.

- 3.1 **Guidelines for the Building the Education Revolution (BER) Grants, 2009/2012 –** Projects approved under the BER program are exempt from global area standard calculations for the purposes of the Capital Grant Program². The BGA may consider the

¹ No record of Global Area Guideline requirements in CGP Guidelines from 2016 onwards.

² [BER Guidelines Version 6 15 March 2011.pdf](#)

discounting of the similar facilities in a school which has previously financed the construction of these buildings from private school resources, to ensure equity of treatment between schools.

- 3.2 **Trade Training/Skills Centres** - The areas of these Centres are to be included in a school's area calculations.
- 3.3 **External Facilities** – If a school is using external facilities to deliver curriculum to students the areas used for this purpose should not be taken into account.
- 3.4 **Unused Facilities** – if the BGA identifies facilities at a school that are unused, and the school has requested additional facilities the BGA would need to substantiate why the existing facilities are not being fully utilised and the actual need for new facilities.

4. **Related Policies**

Nil

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