



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

21 October, 2009

New \$4.5million buildings to transform Mount Lawley Primary School

Mount Lawley Primary School is looking forward to an exciting future with \$4.5million worth of new buildings expected to be ready by the start of the 2011 school year.

Principal Don Barba said the works, which will include a new early childhood centre, computer laboratory and teaching areas, would transform the historic school.

“The school, in consultation with staff, students, school council and the wider community, has spent a lot of time coming up with a design and location for the new buildings which will not only enhance students’ learning but also preserve our much-needed ‘play’ space,” Mr Barba said.

“I am delighted that together we have achieved something very special which will mean a bright future for current and future generations of students at the school.”

Through the Australian Government’s Building the Education Revolution program – the largest infrastructure program ever undertaken in Western Australian public schools – the school is receiving \$2.5million for a multi-purpose learning block, art/craft room, music room and early childhood centre.

The school is also receiving \$2million from the WA Government’s school capital improvements program for a computer laboratory, classroom, conference room, toilets, storage areas and small group teaching areas.

“The new buildings will give us greater flexibility to provide a wide variety of important learning programs, many of which involve parents and are difficult to run with our current limited facilities,” he said.

Mr Barba said recent media reports that a nearly 100-year-old library was being demolished to make way for a transportable classroom were incorrect.

“The building, which is in poor condition, will be replaced by brand new, permanent buildings that will greatly enhance our school,” Mr Barba said.

“A temporary transportable classroom will be located on another part of the site during 2010 to allow classes to continue as normal while these works take place.”

Mr Barba said he was continuing to work extremely hard to help the community find an alternative location for the out-of-school care program, for which the school has offered the use of the old library building for many years.

“As with any school, we do not run out-of-school care programs and the first priority of the school and the Department of Education and Training is to provide the best facilities and learning programs for our students,” he said.

“However, I recognise the value of the child care service and will continue to give the Mount Lawley Out of School Care Committee every support in their efforts to find an alternative location.”

In WA public primary schools, \$1.12 billion is being spent on large scale infrastructure, such as libraries, early childhood centres, classrooms and covered assembly areas, as part of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) element of BER.

BER is in turn part of the Australian Government's Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan.

The WA Government will spend an additional \$300 million to build 14 new public schools over the next six years and an extra \$50 million on a four-year public school capital improvements program.

(ENDS)

Media contact: David Mitchell (9264 5821)