

December 2010

BER Primary School Halls (New Build Projects)

What is the purpose of school halls?

School halls - regardless of their type - are primarily built as teaching and learning spaces. A new hall can benefit both staff and students, enabling them to teach and participate in sports activities such as gymnastics; programs such as performing arts and music; practical mathematics and science activities, and hold school events such as assemblies, awards ceremonies, school plays and concerts.

Another objective of the BER Program is to maximise community benefits. Community and not-for-profit groups will be able to use school halls at no, or low, cost for a range of activities. Information on the Department of Education and Training's community use of school facilities is available at the [DET Intranet - Community Use of School Facilities Policy](#).

What determines hall size?

The size of a school's hall will depend on the number of enrolled students at the school. Halls are designed to provide enough on-floor seating space for their enrolled student population. Under the BER Program, schools may be offered a larger hall size if the school's P21 allocation is sufficient to cover the costs and the school site is large enough.

Hall quality and inclusions

The standard hall designs comply with the Department of Education and Training's Schools Facilities Standards, which are developed with input from Principals, representatives from the P&C and NSW Teachers Federation and technical and maintenance experts.

The minimum quality requirements set by the Standards mean school projects can initially be more expensive than domestic or commercial projects. However, incorporating this quality upfront saves money in the long run. The Standards ensure that school halls are fit for purpose and strike the right balance between the upfront cost of a building and the long-term cost of maintenance and cleaning.

While the halls are based on standard designs, some features or optional extras can be added or removed to bring the project within the school's budget. For example, a school may choose to remove covered walkways and minimise landscaping so that the maximum sized COLA can be afforded.

The BER Program Office, the Managing Contractors and the Principal work together to identify project changes that are appropriate for the school and help align the scope and the budget.



Core 21 CDR Hall - External

Hall standard design inclusions

Component	7 Core Hall	14 Core Hall	21 Core Hall
Enrolment numbers	151-300 students	301-500 students	More than 500 students
Floor space	120m ²	190m ²	250m ²
COLA	Yes (max. of 75m ²)	Yes (max. 150m ²)	Yes (max. of 210m ²)
Canteen	No – Not an option	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief
Covered Walkways	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief	Optional, if included in the IPO Project Brief
Chairs provided	Yes	Yes	Yes
Raised platform	No	Optional	Optional
Data connections	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sound room	No	Yes	Yes
Audio system	No	Yes	Yes
Spot lighting	No	Yes	Yes
Sprung floors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stage lighting and curtains	No	No	No
PE Storeroom	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chair store room	No	Yes	Yes
Sports equipment storeroom	No	Yes	Yes
Performance storeroom	No	Yes	Yes
Cleaners cupboard	No	Yes	Yes
Landscaping	Optional	Optional	Optional
Disabled toilets and change facilities	No	Yes	Yes
Girls toilets	No	Yes	Yes
Boys toilets	No	Yes	Yes
Security key locks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Air conditioning	No – Unless required under DET Policy (hot zone)	No – Unless required under DET Policy (hot zone)	No – Unless required under DET Policy (hot zone)
Heating	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water tank *	Optional	Optional	Optional
Solar panel *	Optional	Optional	Optional

* The BER standard designs only include one rainwater tank and one solar panel per school. Schools with two Australian Government approved projects are only entitled to one rainwater tank and one solar panel. Schools with a student population of fewer than 50 students are not entitled to a rain water tank as part of a P21 project.

BER Primary School Hall projects do not include an establishment grant to purchase sound equipment.