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1.0 ABOUT THE BRIEF

1.0.1 OBJECTIVE
The Department of Education (DoE), through Building Management and Works (BMW), builds a number of primary schools every year. There is a significant consistency in education and functional needs from year to year. The locations for new primary schools are normally driven by new subdivision growth. Decisions regarding locations are therefore left as long as possible. Occupation dates, being tied to the school term, lack flexibility. This results in a need for a rapid procurement timeframe.

These influences have led to the need for a model primary school, which can be undertaken at short notice with minimal design changes to varied sites. Familiarity with a model primary school by the construction industry also assists rapid construction. Consequently, this Standard Pattern Primary School Brief (the Brief) has been developed by the Departments, to provide consistent, system wide standards and benchmarks.

The brief has been developed to focus on current educational pedagogy and delivery modes and with flexible and adaptable facilities. The model ensures equity across the system and can be initiated and completed at short notice on a variety of sites. This assists the construction phase as the industry becomes familiar with the design model facilitating accelerated building programs whilst ensuring better value for money.

In order to avoid unnecessary delays and prejudice the opening times for primary schools the Brief is mandatory for the design and procurement of a primary school.

1.0.2 BACKGROUND
In 1993, The former Department of Education and Training (DET), now Department of Education (DoE) and the former Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS), later the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and now BMW, undertook a major review of the primary school design. The review allowed for a fundamental reassessment of a number of weaknesses of the previous school design including construction difficulties and linking of individual blocks.

Between 1994 and 1995 further reviews took place to build upon the success of the new design. These reviews resulted in a Value Management study of the brief and a modification of design details to maximise value for money.

In January 1995, CAMS on behalf of DET set about developing a set of accommodation standards for primary schools. These standards are known as the Department of Education Primary School Brief.

Version '97 was released as the first non draft revision incorporating feedback from users of Version '95 with regards to corrections, improvements, curriculum revisions updates, etc.

In 2004 a revision took place. Although the brief had been written around a model design, with the passage of time a greater range of designs had become common. The 2004 revision was not able to capture the full range of design adaptations acceptable to DET.
In July 2010, a revision of the Brief by DoE, in conjunction with BMW was completed. It was to be assumed that all sections had changed.

In March 2012 the Brief was revised and launched on the Department of Finance website. It was to be assumed that all sections had changed.

In October 2014 and again in May 2015 a revision of the Brief by DoE, in conjunction with BMW was completed. It is to be assumed that all sections have changed. Users must treat the current version of the Brief as an entirely new brief and all previous versions must be discarded.

### 1.0.3 USING THE BRIEF

**New and Existing Buildings**

The Brief describes the operational and technical requirements for a new Primary School. However the Brief can be applied to any alterations and additions to primary schools as well as for the provision of equipment.

This generic Brief provides a comprehensive set of standards from which a project specific brief can be prepared.

Additionally this Brief provides:

- A benchmark against which facilities requiring upgrading can be assessed. This provides a quantifiable measure of shortfalls and/or additions required in the existing accommodation. This can be used to determine the economic viability of either upgrading or replacement.
- A framework to enhance the operational/effectiveness of future school facilities by learning from previous building experiences e.g. Post Occupancy Evaluations.
- A rationalisation of common facilities within a school avoiding costly duplication.
- The basis for preparing feasibility studies and indicative cost estimates for proposed new primary schools or alterations and additions.

The Brief has been developed using a modular, hierarchical approach, which gives indicative planning and approaches for:

- **Specific block units** e.g. Administration, Teaching Block 1, Library etc.
- **Activity spaces** within specific block units and their relationship to other spaces within the specific block. Data sheets are provided in Section 6 to describe such things as the environmental, electrical, furniture requirements etc.
- **The room layouts** are associated with the Data Sheets located in Section 6 indicate where fixed furniture and fittings are required e.g. Power & data outlets cupboards, pin up boards etc.
- **Standard details for fixed furniture and standard construction details:**
  - The furniture details are a guide for minimum requirements and may be altered to suit specific projects.
  - The construction details are designed to minimise ongoing maintenance costs and are proven through experience. They are to be incorporated.
1.0.4 **REVISIONS**

Revisions to the Brief may occur as a result of:

- **Post Occupancy Evaluation** - a P.O.E. enables an assessment of the facility to be carried out to test the relevance of the Brief to the functionality required from that achieved. This information is used to enhance the Brief for future facilities.

- **Specific reviews** - the Department of Education and BMW carry out specific reviews of areas from time to time. This also involves the users of the facilities.

- **BMW advice** - design considerations and technical specifications may be altered because of changing standards i.e. products used previously disappear or new products appear that are more cost efficient or effective. Generally these changes will not affect the operational requirements of the facility, and as such will be made as required.

The Brief is intended to be a living document reflecting the changing needs and requirements of the DoE. It will be subject to periodical review and it is therefore necessary to refer to the website to ensure that the most recent updates are referenced. Revision dates are noted in the bottom right hand corner of the footer of each page. It is not intended to send broadcasts nor catalogue revisions as they occur. The onus is upon the user to check that he or she is using the latest version.

Typically with DoE projects managed by BMW, drawings for a recently completed relevant school project are supplied for reference as part of the Brief for a new project. Any anomalies within the PSB, or between the PSB and the reference drawings should be brought to the attention of the Project Manager for clarification and order of precedence.