



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Gillard's 'economic education' costs Australians billions

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The Prime Minister's opinion that the waste experienced throughout the Building the Education Revolution scheme provided her with "lessons" is an appalling indictment of her ability to manage Government spending, says Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston.

Prime Minister Gillard has told reporters that she has learnt from her mistakes when heading Labor's \$16.2 billion BER program and that all should be forgiven as Australian voters draw closer to deciding who should run the nation's trillion dollar economy.

"It seems absurd that we have a Labor Government that is trying to spruik their economic credentials with a leader who oversaw waste on an unprecedented scale," said Senator Eggleston.

"The Gillard/Rudd Government continues to be in deep denial about the real reasons Australia emerged from the global financial crisis relatively unscathed.

"This Labor Government will not attribute Australia's economic resilience to the mining sector, nor will they will attribute Australia's avoidance of recession to China's insatiable appetite for our resources or even give credit to the sound economic position the Howard Government passed on to them.

"However most amusingly, they are more than willing to try and trick the Australian people into thinking that stimulus packages such as the BER were responsible for saving us from economic strife, even in the face of overwhelming evidence that waste and rorting of the scheme was endemic," said Senator Eggleston.

Senator Eggleston said it was ironic that as the former Minister for Education, Prime Minister Gillard should be more concerned with education for Australians, rather than relying on ill-conceived policies to provide herself with a multi-billion dollar 'lesson' in economic management.

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