



## ***Australian Education Union - Federal Office***

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### **AEU WELCOMES MACKLIN ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Australian Education Union today welcomed the ALP's announcement that it would fund increased numbers of university places for teaching if it won government.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne, said "This proposal at last acknowledges that there is already a teacher shortage in Australia. The combined effects of the ageing workforce and the high exit rate among new teachers means this will get significantly worse. These 4,600 new places will go some way to addressing the shortage."

"Also, the additional 500 full time HECS funded postgraduate places will provide encouragement for graduates to choose teaching as a profession by enabling them to complete the teaching component of their studies without further financial disadvantage. This would rectify the disincentive arising from the HECS increases in the recent Federal Budget."

"The announcement about increased funding for in-school practical training is also welcome and long overdue. The problem of finding places for training teachers has been worsening over the last decade. This will address the difficulties which beginning teachers face and improve the quality of teacher education. The most suitable teachers should be able to take on the responsibility of supervising student teachers in practical lessons."

Pat Byrne said "Ms Macklin's announcements will be appreciated by existing teachers as well as those currently studying to be teachers and those who we hope will be attracted into the profession."

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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