



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006
Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800 Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805
Email : aeu@aeufederal.org.au Website : www.aeufederal.org.au

11 September 2003

EDUCATION UNION DEFIES STATE TREASURERS ON 3% WAGES CAP

Despite recent statements from state and territory treasurers promising a 3% per annum cap on public sector wages, the Australian Education Union has already won better deals in several states.

In the lead-up to the Union's National Day of Action next Wednesday, 17 September, AEU Federal President Pat Byrne promised the Union will continue to defy the "Treasurers' Pact" around the country.

In recent negotiations the AEU has won offers of 3.8% in Queensland and 6.8% in the ACT. In 2003, agreements already in place have delivered increases of 4% in the Northern Territory, 5% in New South Wales and 4% in South Australia.

"Education workers will not sit back and let state governments undermine our wages and conditions," said Ms Byrne. "There is already a shortage of teachers, and it is increasingly difficult to attract new teachers into the profession. Now is the time for governments to be investing in quality education and recognising the value of teachers and other education workers.

"The AEU will fight for the future of public education, and we cannot allow the bean-counters to block investment in the most important of public resources – a high quality education workforce.

"The Union has already shown that the Treasurers' Pact can be broken, and our members will be reminding state and federal governments next Wednesday that we will do so again," Ms Byrne said.

The National Day of Action will see strike action in at least three states, and a range of political protest activities in all states and territories.

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne
AEU Federal President
08 9325 5311 – Office
0411 693 244 – Mobile