



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

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### **Media Release**

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## **Federal Report confirms 30,000 teacher shortage by the end of the decade - national education crisis looming**

A Federal Government Review released today by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, has found there will be a national shortage of 20,000 to 30,000 teachers by the end of the decade if urgent action to recruit and retain teachers is not taken.

The Australian Education Union Federal President Pat Byrne said the report highlights the urgent need for a national strategy to address the teacher shortage.

“The AEU held a national day of action in September to draw attention to the crisis situation that is currently confronting the education system in Australia.

State and Federal Governments cannot continue to deny there is a problem. Governments must act responsibly to ensure teacher supply for Australian children now and in the future. Every Australian child deserves to have access to qualified, quality teachers,” said Ms Byrne.

“In light of this report we again call on State Governments to meet with us to discuss national strategies to attract and retain teachers,” said Ms Byrne.

The Union said the report confirms that issues such as pay, workload, & class sizes must be addressed if Governments want to prevent a crisis in education systems across Australia.

“As this report shows if we want quality, qualified teachers, Governments need to properly reward teachers, and improve their working conditions,” said Ms Byrne.

The union notes the report found that 25% of new teachers leave teaching within 5 years, and that 60% of teacher graduates have not taken up a teaching position 12 months after graduating.

“Given the information in the report State and Federal Governments will be negligent if they do not act now to ensure an adequate supply of quality teachers,” said Ms Byrne.

The AEU supports the reports' recommendations of:

- Research into how to attract & keep teachers in the profession (action 11)
- Incentives and scholarships to attract to teachers in to key areas such as maths, technology & science (action 13)
- Incentives and scholarships to attract indigenous teachers (action17)

The AEU leadership is calling on State and Federal Government representatives to develop coordinated national and state strategies to attract and retain teachers to the profession.

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