



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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National Schools Framework Lacks Resources & Commitment

“The National Education Framework for Schools announced by the Federal Education Minister, Brendan Nelson lacks the necessary funding and commitment from the Federal Government to achieve its key goals,” said the Australian Education Union’s Federal President Pat Byrne.

The AEU supports the idea of a national framework and many of the goals outlined by The Minister. In particular we support:

- Improving the Standing of Teachers
- Attracting the Best to the Profession
- National Consistency in Schooling
- Improving the performance of schools and better outcomes for students

However, some of the means to achieve these goals are debatable and the Minister misses the main point – the lack of resources provided to schools by the Federal Government.

Some of Dr Nelson's ideas directly imported from George Bush's education system really have no place in the Australian system, such as determining which values are taught in schools and punishing schools instead of providing extra support which they need.

“Without resources to reduce class sizes, deliver better pay to teachers to attract the best candidates and a re-introduction of Federal funding for preschools to eliminate fees, improved student outcomes will remain just words on a press release”, said Ms Byrne

“The AEU would like to work with the Minister to achieve many of these goals. The Minister could kick-start the process by reviewing the inequitable Federal Government funding to schools that sees 70% of its funds going to private schools while only 30% go to public schools where the resources are most needed.

In fact it could be argued that the Government’s discriminatory funding policy is the main obstacle for many schools in delivering better quality outcomes for their students,” Ms Byrne concluded.

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