



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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World Teachers Day – Supporting Australia’s Teachers

Teachers from around Australia will today celebrate World Teachers Day.

The Australian Education Union said the international celebrations are a recognition of the enormous contribution teachers make to educational opportunities and outcomes for our children.

Ms Pat Byrne, Federal President of the Australian Education Union, pointed to the importance of teachers being acknowledged and supported in their work to enable them to continue to achieve outstanding results with students.

“Teachers need access to high quality professional development, as a recognised part of their workload, to maintain and extend their teaching capacities. This includes valuing teacher input into curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting practices, rather than simply expecting teachers to perform the technical aspects of their role,” she said.

“If we are to retain sufficient teachers to avoid the widely predicted teacher shortage by the end of this decade, teachers will need to regain their sense of being valued as a profession. Genuine recognition involves valuing teachers’ professional judgement as well as improving other aspects of their work. Heavy workloads and low pay are two of the major signals sent by governments that teachers are not valued,” Ms Byrne said.

“While today is a day for celebrating the outstanding contribution teachers make to our communities, Australian State and Federal Governments must address these issues if they want to stem the flow of our qualified teachers out of the profession, or to work overseas,” Ms Byrne said.

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