



## **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](mailto:aeu@aeufederal.org.au) Website : [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

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### **NELSON FAILS AT FIRST HURDLE**

Brendan Nelson's launch of the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership has failed to turn his rhetoric into reality.

Initially, in foreshadowing the establishment of a National Institute, Nelson was emphatic that it would be run "by the profession, for the profession".

"What he obviously really meant to say was that it would be run "by some of the profession for all of the profession", said AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne.

"The composition of the Board, announced today by the Minister, reflects an imbalance in representation with classroom teachers significantly underrepresented. This in turn demonstrates a narrow view of what constitutes leadership.

"Rather than attempting to seek broad input from across the profession Nelson, has chosen to give multiple seats to some groups while totally excluding others, such as teacher unions, from a representative role.

Teachers see their unions as representing them professionally as well as industrially. In ignoring that view, Dr Nelson is risking the credibility of this Institute. Unless teachers are reassured that this Institute will have a meaningful function for them, they will want little to do with it.

"Dr. Nelson has missed his first opportunity to demonstrate good faith," said Ms Byrne.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Pat Byrne**

AEU Federal President

03 9693 1800 – Office

0411 693 244 – Mobile