



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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AEU welcomes ALP commitment to better schools.

The Australian Education Union (AEU) today welcomed the Australian Labor Party's announcement that it would commit a further \$315 million to better schools.

AEU Federal Secretary, Rob Durbridge said today that the AEU has long advocated for an increase in federal funding for public education and the need to provide a national plan for education.

"The AEU, through our charter for public education has long held the belief that there is a need for public education to be made a national priority. We believe that this commitment from the Labor Party today indicates their willingness to accept that the education is the responsibility of all governments", Mr. Durbridge said.

While 70% of Australian students attend public schools only 30% of the Federal funding is spent on public education. Despite this Australian schools continue to perform very well on the world stage. The latest OECD data shows that Australian students aged 15 rated second for literacy, second for numeracy and third for scientific literacy among the 29 OECD countries.

"This data is a reflection of the good work of the public education system. Public education discriminates against no one and is open to all. But, public education continues to be hamstrung by the federal government that will not commit the resources to maintain and improve current standards.

"This announcement today, shows that the Labor Party recognises the needs of our schools.

"The AEU as an industrial body looks forward to discussing the implementation of these ideas in our schools and to substantive ALP policy on education," Mr. Durbridge said.

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