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Federal Government to continue unfair school funding

The passage of the schools funding legislation through Parliament, this week, shapes schools' funding for the next 4 years, and continues the Federal Government's biased funding model.

Australian Education Union (AEU) Federal President, Ms. Pat Byrne said "This legislation, in its current form, is an absolute insult to Australian public school parents and students.

"Two-thirds of Australian students attend public schools in this country yet this Government continues to direct 70% of federal funding to private schools with the largest increases going to elite schools.

"The Federal Minister is playing political games with the states rather than working with the education community to achieve better outcomes for all students.

"This legislation has a whole range of new clauses attached to funding which are designed to ensure compliance with Canberra rather than to encourage innovative teaching practices. For example, the requirement for teacher professional development to be publicly displayed encourages a focus on numbers of days rather than on the nature or quality of professional development attended. This is policy focused on image rather than addressing real educational needs.

"The AEU calls on Dr. Nelson to engage in proper dialogue with teachers to ensure that we continue to build on our successful education systems instead of adopting punitive and restrictive measures aimed at undermining public confidence in schools.

"The focus needs to shift away from political stunts and start addressing the real issues in education, beginning with rectifying the current unbalanced and unfair funding model which sees two-thirds of federal funds going to the one-third of students attending private schools," said Ms Byrne.

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