



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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PUBLIC EDUCATION: Under-valued, Under-funded, Under Howard.

The Australian Education Union today announced that it would run a marginal seats campaign in the lead up to the federal election.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne said the AEU has, throughout the year been campaigning for fairer federal funding for Australia's public schools.

"The AEU has invested over \$1.5 million in this campaign, the most significant campaign that we have run at a federal level. We are now specifically targeting marginal seats across Australia to ensure that public education is the number one issue on polling day.

"The Howard Government currently spends more than \$30 billion on schools education. Less than one third of this funding goes to Australia's public schools, which educate more than two-thirds of Australian students," Ms. Byrne said.

The Australian Education Union will be targeting 28 marginal seats throughout the election: Adelaide, Banks, Bass, Braddon, Brisbane, Canning, Dickson, Dobell, Eden-Monaro, Gippsland, Herbert, Hindmarsh, Hinkler, Kalgoorlie, La Trobe, Lindsay Macarthur, Makin, McEwen, McMillan, Moreton, Page, Parramatta, Petrie, Richmond, Robertson Solomon and Stirling.

"The AEU will be advertising throughout the electorates, via television, radio, print and cinema, to remind voters that public education must be a national priority.

"The Greens, the Democrats and the ALP have all publicly stated that they will make public education a national priority – and we are calling on the millions of Australians with children at public schools to make a difference on polling day," Ms. Byrne said.

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