



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 Website : www.aeufederal.org.au*

May 11, 2004

THE FAMILY BUDGET FAILS AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS

The Howard Government's ninth budget, the family budget, has failed to deliver to Australian students.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne tonight said this budget is very disappointing for students, parents and teachers across the country as it has not attempted to resolve or address the unfair funding model which fails to deliver adequate funding to Australia's public education system.

"The Howard Government tonight ensured that the major beneficiaries in schools will continue to be the one third of Australia's students who attend private schools.

"The family budget has completely ignored the needs of 40,000 pre school-aged children by again failing to deliver any funding to the preschool sector.

"Insufficient funds have been made available for indigenous students, 88% of whom attend public schools," Ms Byrne said.

The changes of funding to the TAFE sector and freeze on placements, has ensured that this year there will be an effective cut of 50,000 TAFE placements. Furthermore any extra funding is being directed into the private sector.

"The only thing that this budget has delivered for education, is the reinforcement that Brendan Nelson is in fact the Minister for Private Education.

"This family budget has blatantly ignored the needs of the vast majority of Australian students. It has in no way attempted to address the imbalance of funding from the wealthy private sector back into the public education system which provides for 70% of Australian students.

"Now, more than ever, it is apparent that there must be a Senate Inquiry into this funding model to provide greater transparency to the voting public." Ms Byrne said.

For further information, please contact:

Meaghan Telford

0409 510 879