



## ***Australian Education Union - Federal Office***

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### **AEU WELCOMES SENATE INQUIRY REPORT**

The Australian Education Union welcomed the Senate Inquiry's Report into the Commonwealth Funding for Schools, released yesterday. The Report's recommendation that the Australian Government accept its responsibility for the support of high quality public school systems as a national priority is particularly significant, as is the endorsement of a more equitable funding model as described in the MCEETYA principles for schools resourcing.

The recommendations make explicit the need for the establishment of a set of funding principles which reflect the needs of schools and which take into account total levels of funding from all sources – federal, state and private.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne, said, "The existing funding model is rapidly entrenching differences between rich and poor schools and has produced an environment where 'need' has become confused with 'entitlement' with the Coalition arguing that Australia's wealthiest schools are entitled to government funding because their parent communities pay taxes. In no other area of Australian life does the mere fact of paying tax confer an entitlement to government subsidies."

The AEU also welcomed the recommendations in relation to full financial reporting, particularly the need to ensure that this data is presented in a standard format, using a single accounting basis and reporting period.

"This will go a long way towards eliminating the confusion which currently exists around the use of funding statistics, reduce the capacity of state and federal governments to avoid their responsibilities and enable easier tracking of more than \$30 billion of Australian Government funding," said Ms Byrne.

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