



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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AEU welcomes Senate Inquiry into schools funding; calls on ALP to announce policy.

The Australian Education Union today welcomed the announcement from opposition parties establishing a Senate inquiry into the funding of Australia's schools.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne said that the AEU was pleased that the opposition parties had supported the AEU's call for a Senate Inquiry.

"For almost five years the Howard Government has been implementing an education funding model which has ensured that private schools have been the major beneficiary, at the expense of the needs of the 70% of Australian students in public schools.

"Significantly, the opposition parties have agreed to call for a Senate Inquiry into the funding model which is employed by the Federal Government. The AEU believes that this will provide an opportunity for Australians to see just how flawed the SES model is," Ms Byrne said.

However, while welcoming the Inquiry, the union calls on the Labor Party to outline its funding policy for Australian schools.

"While the ALP continues to talk about the importance of quality public education, it has not been forthcoming with any information as to how it would address the problem.

"What Australian teachers and parents need to see is a clear alternative to the current funding model. They need to know that Labor is prepared to make public education a national priority and to demonstrate this by an ongoing, significant resource commitment," said Ms Byrne.

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