



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday 15 February

Australian Education Union launch national television campaign on Federal Education Funding Inequities

Australian Education Union will launch a national TV advertising campaign at Parliament House in Canberra today.

The advertising campaign will raise public awareness of the gross inequities in Federal funding of education. Currently two thirds of Federal Education Funding is poured in to private schools with only one third going to public schools.

Pat Byrne, AEU President, said: "Many parents are worried that the Federal Government has walked away from its responsibility to the public education system – the system that 70% of Australia's children attend," said Ms Byrne.

"One of the worst features of the funding model is that Australia's wealthiest schools are receiving millions in Federal Government funding that would be much better directed towards public schools to lower class sizes and provide better facilities for students," said Ms Byrne.

The AEU said Australia's public education system is excellent by world standards. An OECD report released in 2001 that assessed student performance at the age of 15 showed Australia ranked second for reading literacy, second for mathematical literacy and third for scientific literacy.

"You would think a public education system delivering such outcomes would be supported by Government but unfortunately at a national level this is not the case, instead John Howard is starving the public education system of funding," said Ms Byrne.

"The AEU wants a commitment from all political parties to major investment in education and to a more equitable distribution of public funds to the schools that need it most," said Ms Byrne.

AEU Launch of National Television Advertising Campaign

Date: 15 February 2004

Time: 11am

Venue: Committee Room 1R1
Parliament House Canberra

For further information, please contact:

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