



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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MEDIA ALERT **June 17 2004**

More than 200 Teachers and Parents to lobby MPs

Over 200 parents and teachers from communities across the nation will travel to Canberra on Monday where they will meet their local MPs to address the issue of funding for public education.

Pat Byrne, Australian Education Union Federal President said that among the 200 going to Canberra some are travelling from as far as Kalgoorlie and Far North Queensland.

"Our teachers and parents are showing an unparalleled commitment to their students' and their children's future, it's now up to the Australian Government to make public education their priority. The funding of public education is a major election issue that will not go away," Ms Byrne said.

Most electorates from across Australia will be represented in Monday's lobby day where the issues of class sizes, improved facilities, teacher shortages and the need to increase funding to public schools will be discussed. Fair and equitable funding for public education through the Government's new quadrennial funding Bill will be a major issue.

Following last month's launch of the Australian Education Union's Charter, a detailed document outlining a future plan for public education and the recent State of Our Schools Survey of 1000 Principals, Pat Byrne says the lobby day is yet another effort to further highlight the issues and needs of public schools.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Media Conference

When: Monday 21 June

Where: Parliament House 1R5 in Parliament House

Time: 9.30am

Pat Byrne – Federal President, AEU

Judith Bundy – President, ACSSO

John McMillan, President, AGPPA

Photo Opportunity

Over 200 people from across Australia will gather to lobby their local MPs on the issue of public education

When: Monday 21 June

Where: Outside Parliament House

Time: 10.00am

Leaders Forum:

Lobbyists will be addressed by Leader of the Opposition Mr. Mark Latham, Leader of the Australian Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett, Leader of the Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown and the Minister for Education the Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson.

When: Monday 21 June

Where: Parliamentary Private Dining Rooms 1, 2 and 3

Time: 12.30 – 1.30pm

For further information, please contact:

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Media

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