



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

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### **Teachers Fight To Keep Refugees In Class**

Public school and TAFE teachers will join forces to fight the removal of refugee students from their classrooms as part of a new campaign endorsed by the Australian Education Union's Federal Conference in Hobart.

Under the resolution a national school and community-based campaign will defend and protect refugee students and their parents against deportation.

The bid was made in preparation of an anticipated increase in forced deportations of current temporary protection visa holders. The resolution was passed after officials and delegates at the conference heard a report detailing the shocking impact education deprivation combined with constant upheaval had on school and college aged refugees.

The 'Not From Our Centre/School/College/Community' Campaign would also:

- form a national network to collect and disseminate information from schools, centres and colleges attended by students on temporary protection visas
- publicly acknowledge the unique role of educators in raising human rights issues with students, parents, and the community
- highlight the importance of working collectively through education communities to protect vulnerable individuals and their families

AEU Federal Deputy President Angelo Gavrielatos said: "We are particularly concerned about the large number of temporary protection visa holders enrolled in preschool centres, schools and TAFE campuses, who are living under the constant threat of deportation."

"Despite being deemed refugees they continue to be denied basic government services and the right to access family reunion programs."

"It is the welfare of these children and young adults who have already incurred so much suffering that must be paramount in our minds," he said.

The AEU and its members have previously been successful in calling for all children detained in Baxter, Woomera and other detention centres to be allowed to attend public schools and for boosted access to TAFE courses.

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