



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006
Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800 Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805
Email : aeu@aeufederal.org.au Website : www.aeufederal.org.au

Tuesday 20 January 2004

Howard's values – elitism and inequity

The Australian Education Union will hold a press conference today in response to John Howard's comments on public education.

AEU Federal Secretary Rob Durbridge said: "Over 70% of Australia's students attend public schools and John Howard's statements are deeply insulting to these students, to their parents, and to teachers."

"Two thirds of Commonwealth funding is being poured into private schools, and only one third is given to public schools. This is a reflection of the Howard Government's values - Public schools encourage the core values of inclusion and fairness, Howard's values are about elitism and inequity."

"Commonwealth funding should go to schools that need it most. Instead under this Government many elite private schools have had increases of over 200% in Federal Government funding in the last few years," said Mr Durbridge.

The Australian Education Union launched a \$1 million dollar plus Federal Election campaign for public education at the AEU Federal Conference on the weekend.

The "Public Education – It is our Future" Campaign will aim to ensure all political parties have education policies that develop and grow the public education systems.

"The Federal Government should be supporting public education to ensure every Australian child has access to a good education no matter what their background," said Mr Durbridge.

Press Conference

Spokesperson: Rob Durbridge, AEU Federal Secretary
Time: 11.30am
Where: AEU Federal Office
Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank,

For further information, please contact:

Rob Durbridge
AEU Federal Secretary
0407 560 368 – Mobile

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Federal Deputy President
0418 423 531 – Mobile

Kasturi Shanahan
Media
0414 694 476 – Mobile