



## **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](mailto:aeu@aeufederal.org.au) Website : [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

---

22 April 2004  
MEDIA RELEASE

### **“TELL THE WHOLE STORY, AMANDA!”**

The Australian Education Union today called on the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Amanda Vanstone to tell the whole story about the government's support for refugees.

Federal AEU president, Pat Byrne said that, while the federal government's education kit, *Australia says Yes to Refugees*, quite rightly outlines Australia's proud tradition of refugee assistance, it says nothing about its treatment of asylum seekers who come here directly.

“There are 164 children still in detention because of the federal government's inhumane policies on asylum seekers,” said Ms Byrne. “They are mostly Afghans, Iraqis and Iranians. Most of these children came to Australia on the boats of 2001 and are currently being held on Nauru (83) or on Christmas Island (14). Five of these children are unaccompanied by parents.”

“The ongoing detention of children, in any form, is a disgrace. We call on the Minister to end this cruelty, show some compassion and release the children still in detention.”

#### **For further information, please contact:**

**Pat Byrne**  
AEU Federal President  
03 9693 1800 – Office  
0411 693 244 – Mobile

**Angelo Gavrielatos**  
AEU Deputy Federal President  
0418 423 531 - Mobile