



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

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### **Australian Technical Colleges abandon Australian students**

The Australian Education Union today condemned the Howard Government's announcement of the first 12 Australian Technical Colleges to be introduced across Australia.

AEU Deputy Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos said that today's announcement is an attempt to disguise further funding to the private sector at the expense of the public education system.

"This decision is ideological not logical. The Federal Government is duplicating existing resources in an attempt to promote the private sector.

"TAFE colleges and public schools are staffed with quality teachers that guarantee high quality vocational education and training. This decision will not only duplicate services but will ultimately reduce opportunities in public schools.

"What the community wants is greater funding to TAFE and public schools in order to support local industry initiatives and the expansion of vocational education opportunities that will make education and training accessible to all.

"After nine years of Coalition Government, Australia is facing the greatest ever skills shortage and what is most disappointing about today's announcement is that it will do nothing to overcome this problem," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

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