



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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TSUNAMI STATEMENT

The Australian Education Union (AEU) has called on all staff in pre-schools, schools, TAFE institutions and other workplaces to donate a half-day's pay to help rebuild education infrastructure in tsunami-ravaged countries.

Delegates to the annual AEU Federal Conference in Fremantle unanimously endorsed the resolution.

The AEU expects to raise many millions of dollars for the relief effort.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne said today in addition to the contributions from school staff and the AEU, its Branches and Associated Bodies "will ask their own employees to contribute half a day's pay and will match the amount contributed to be donated to the APHEDA Tsunami Fund."

"Further the AEU International Trust Fund will contribute \$30,000 to the Education International Tsunami Fund," she said.

Ms Byrne said that a week in February 2005 would be nominated Tsunami Education Action Week across Australia.

During this Week, students and education communities will be asked to hold fundraising activities.

"We hope that engaging in these activities it will help students understand the impact of the disaster on children in affected countries, particularly in relation to the effects on their schooling and future working opportunities," said Ms Byrne.

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