



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

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Media Release

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## **Federal Government fails to address looming teacher shortage, says AEU.**

The Australian Education Union today said that there was a need for greater Federal Government investment in its submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Teacher Education.

AEU Acting Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos said that the Federal Government appears to be more intent on conducting inquiries than addressing the real issues facing the profession including the looming teacher shortage.

"There has been, on average, one inquiry per year into teacher education over the past 25 years. The Howard Government in the past 9 years has failed to address its responsibility in regard to teacher education to ensure an adequate supply of teachers. The Government's Inquiry into Teacher Education does not provide scope for dealing with the issue of teacher shortage."

The facts are alarming; numerous government reports predict a shortfall of up to 30,000 qualified teachers by the end of this decade. More disturbingly, it is reported that up to 25% of new teachers indicate they will leave the profession in their first 5 years of teaching.

The AEU's submission to the teacher education review highlights the teacher shortage, the need to address teacher supply and the inadequate number of teacher education university places.

"University Admission Centre figures show that nationally, the shortfall in Commonwealth funding to Universities may have resulted this year in 46% of students who sought to enrol in teacher education courses missing out on their first preference.

The AEU calls on the Federal Government to address the issue of teacher supply as a matter of urgency by dramatically increasing funding. This would ensure adequate teacher education places and support for practice teaching for teacher trainees and for new teachers in their first years of teaching." Mr. Gavrielatos said.

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