



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*

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TAFE teachers say no to Australian Workplace Agreements National Day of Action June 1

On Wednesday, 1 June, TAFE teachers around Australia will be taking action to defend the national training system. They will be joining their TAFE colleagues and workers from the Higher Education sector in joint activities in capital cities and regional centres.

The Federal Government is threatening to withdraw its funding for TAFE from states and territories if they do not agree to offer Australian Workplace Agreements to teachers in TAFE. Federal funding comprises almost 30% of government funding for the TAFE system nationally.

In an unprecedented attempt to wrest further control of the system from the states, the Federal Government requires the states and territories to:

- Have approval for their state's training plans from the federal minister before funds are forthcoming
- Extend privatisation of the VET system
- Enact policies that reduce access to training time by apprentices and trainees

If the states and territories do not agree to these and a range of other conditions, the Federal Government will withdraw its funding for vocational education and training.

Not one of the conditions attached to the Federal Government's funding offer will address the issue of skills shortages in key industry areas. If enacted, the Federal Government's proposal will:

- Threaten the quality of education and training
- Undermine the integrity of the national training system

The AEU is calling on the state and territory governments to reject the Federal Government's offer, and on the Federal Government to negotiate sensibly with the states over the future of the training system.

For further information, please contact:

Pat Forward
AEU Federal TAFE Secretary
0425 743 954

Linda Simon
AEU Federal TAFE President
0411 550 439