



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Beginning teachers list workload, behaviour management, pay and class sizes as top concerns

A national survey of 1200 beginning teachers, conducted by the Australian Education Union has found that their key concerns are workload, behaviour management, pay and class sizes.

Australian Education Union President, Ms Pat Byrne said the Union's survey had found that 64% of teachers with 3 years or less experience indicated that workload was a key concern.

"Our members have been bombarded with more and more paperwork over recent years. They are saying that this red tape prevents them from focusing on their core role as educators.

"Teachers need greater support in order to deliver quality outcomes in the classroom. But the public system continues to be chronically underfunded by the Federal Government, which only provides one third of its education budget to the public system.

"In comparison, the private sector which educates roughly 30% of Australian students, receives a whopping two thirds of government funding and has none of the accountabilities that the Government imposes on the public sector," Ms Byrne said.

When asked what their top four concerns were, new teachers listed workload (64%), behaviour management (60%), pay 56% and class sizes (55%).

The survey also shows that 65% of beginning teachers don't feel that their pre-service education prepared them for dealing with the needs of students with disabilities or from low socio-economic status and non English speaking backgrounds. Only 1.5% of respondents said they had ongoing support from their university once they began teaching and 1.8% indicated that they received support from their employer. 94% reported that they received most of their professional support from school colleagues.

"Another significant finding from the survey is that 45% of beginning teachers indicate that they won't be teaching in 10 years time. This is of serious concern given the current average age of teachers and requires a common approach from both state and federal governments to encourage new teachers to remain in the profession," Ms Byrne said.

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