



## **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](mailto:aeu@aeufederal.org.au) Website : [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

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### **Research Highlights the Need for New Funding System**

The Australian Education Union has called for the Federal Government to alter its funding policies after new research showed students in rural areas falling behind those in metropolitan schools in academic achievement.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne, said the results highlighted the difficulties associated in attracting and retaining teachers in rural areas.

“Continuity of appropriately qualified teaching staff in some rural areas is an issue which has been identified by principals and teachers for many years. Schools have long been asking for additional resources to address these issues but to no avail.

“What is needed is a new funding policy which establishes a resources standard that can be used to ensure all schools have the funding they need to enable the delivery of high quality education.

“Research completed on behalf of all state and territory governments shows only five per cent of schools are currently sufficiently resourced to adequately meet the academic needs of all students and an additional \$2.9 billion a year is necessary to be spent on public schools to rectify this.

“The Federal Government continues to ignore this research and fails to take action to ensure all schools are properly funded and that students have the same opportunity wherever they live.

“Instead they continue to slash the share of Commonwealth funding that public schools receive and dramatically increase the share going to non-government schools.

“Public schools are now receiving almost \$1billion less a year than they would have received if the funding ratio had been maintained at the same level it was in 1996.

“The AEU would welcome the opportunity to work with the Federal Government to put in place a fairer funding system that would better meet the needs of students in rural and regional Australia,” said Ms Byrne.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Pat Byrne**  
Federal President  
0411 693 244

**Erin Farley**  
Media Relations  
0409 510 879

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