



## **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)

---

Media Release

Media Release

Media Release

6 July 2006

### **PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Australian Education Union (AEU) said the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) meeting which gets underway today in Brisbane should make funding for public education its top priority.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said the MCEETYA meeting was a chance for Commonwealth, State and Territory education ministers to address the chronic under-funding of public schools.

“There are a lot of items on the agenda for the two day meeting but none is more important than addressing the needs of the 70 per cent of Australian children who go to public schools,” she said.

“This is where the Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop should be directing her energies.

“In the May Federal Budget, the Howard Government failed to inject any new funds for public education and it has systematically under-funded the education system for the past 10 years.

“The majority of Australians understand that a high quality public education system is the foundation for Australia’s future.

“AEU research shows that 90 per cent of people believe additional spending on education should be in the public education system.

The Howard Government is sitting on a massive \$10 billion surplus and still refuses to invest in public education.

“Australians believe that the Howard Government has starved the system of resources for far too long. It is time to make public education a priority. Minister Bishop has the opportunity to show leadership and support public schools”, Ms Byrne said.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

**Pat Byrne**  
AEU Federal President  
0411 693 244– Mobile

**Mark Robinson**  
Media  
0439 411 774 – Mobile