



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

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **Labor's education policy must provide for our public schools, says AEU.**

The Australian Education Union today called on the Labor Party, in its review of its education policy, to reaffirm its commitment to the public education system.

The AEU, through its charter for public education, has long held the belief that there is a need for public education to be made a national priority.

"While 70% of Australian students attend public schools only 30% of federal funding is spent on public education. Despite this, Australian schools continue to perform very well on the world stage", said AEU President Pat Byrne.

"What we need to see, nationally, is constructive policy that provides a greater emphasis on public education and a dedication of resources to where they are most needed.

"If all students are to achieve their full potential, public schools need a significant injection of funding from the federal government so that we can reduce class sizes, provide universal access to preschool education, support students with specific needs and ensure teachers are supported and encouraged to remain in the profession," Ms Byrne said.

"Australian teachers and parents - most of whom choose public schools - want to be given a real alternative, in electoral terms next year. They want a demonstrated commitment from the ALP to their children and their schools by ensuring that funding is prioritised according to need."

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