



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

Media Release

Media Release

Media Release

9 August 2006

WHAT HAS THE MINISTER GOT TO HIDE FROM AN OPEN INQUIRY?

The Australian Education Union (AEU) today condemned Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop, for the secrecy surrounding the review into private school funding.

AEU Deputy Federal President, Mr Angelo Gavrielatos said that the Minister had promised an open public inquiry.

“What has Minister Julie Bishop got to hide by shutting out the public education community from contributing to the inquiry which so far has been behind closed doors?”

“Since being elected in 1996, the Howard Government has continued to show contempt towards parents and to the 70 per cent of children who attend public schools by systematically under-funding public education. The annual shortfall, as calculated by a Ministerial taskforce, currently stands at \$2.9 billion.

“Our great public schools can be even greater with proper government investment.

“A primary commitment to public education must be the absolute priority of all governments.

“The veil of secrecy over this inquiry further exposes the Howard Government’s ideologically driven funding system which favours private schools.

“The AEU calls on Minister Bishop to immediately do two things:

- To release the Terms of Reference so that there can be a publicly accountable process into the funding of private schools; and
- To commit to the AEU’s additional \$2.9 billion claim which represents the current annual funding shortfall to public schools.

“After ten years of neglect and undermining of the public education system, the Federal Government needs to take responsibility for a significant injection of funds.

“The \$11 billion budget surplus provides an opportunity for the Howard Government and the Minister for Education, Julie Bishop to show leadership by committing to this much needed funding,” Mr Gavrielatos said.

For further information, please contact:

Mr Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Deputy Federal President
0418 423 531– Mobile

Kelly Lofberg
Media
0423 375 833