



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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GOOD START BUT MORE HELP NEEDED

The Australian Education Union (AEU) has welcomed the announcement made by Kim Beazley, that education and training remains a priority for Federal Labor.

AEU Federal TAFE President, Ms Linda Simon praised Labor for addressing the education and training needs of Australians in the Budget Reply.

“Federal Labor is providing a starting point, however it must focus on the key issue and that is a strong commitment to funding Vocational Education and Training (VET) delivery.

“Over the last 10 years, the Howard Government has continued to under fund public education and the TAFE system. It is good to see that Federal Labor is addressing chronic skill shortage and providing training opportunities.

“The Howard Government has been on a spending spree this week but failed to address the skills shortage or the needs of public education.

“In order to provide quality training that addresses the skills shortage and builds Australia’s economic capacity, you must have a strong public TAFE system.

“Providing adequate resources to TAFE must be a major priority to both the federal, and state and territory governments.

“The Budget was a missed opportunity to offer a long-term vision for public education and those seeking further education”, Ms Simon said.

Up to 48,000 potential students are turned away from the TAFE system every year at the same time that employers are desperate for trained workers.

More alarmingly, the Howard Government is sitting on a massive \$10 billion surplus and still refuses to invest in public education which would enable TAFE institutions to better provide quality education to more Australians.

“The Howard Government has starved the TAFE system of resources for far too long. It is time to make public education a priority and invest in TAFE and public schools”, Ms Simon said.

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