



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*

13 January 2006

Conference to address Australian educational issues

Building a tolerant and cohesive society is one of the contemporary issues to be considered by education workers from around Australia during a national conference in Brisbane.

The 2006 Australian Education Union (AEU) Annual Federal Conference will run from January 14 to 16 at the Brisbane Convention Centre, preceded by the National TAFE Council AGM from January 11 to 13. The national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Committee will also meet on January 13 to discuss the future of public education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Conference keynote speaker Rosslyn Noonan, New Zealand's Chief Human Rights Commissioner, will discuss the role of public education in protecting and developing human rights and social justice.

Other issues to be examined include: dealing with federal government-led, ill-considered curriculum changes; supporting young people in post-compulsory education; and improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

Delegates will also consider the impact of the new WorkChoices industrial relations laws, particularly in the face of the Howard Government's concerted bullying of TAFE colleges. The Federal Government announced in 2005 that funding to TAFE colleges – vital in addressing the nation's skills shortage – would be tied to staff being offered workplace agreements.

The AEU represents 165,000 educators who work in public schools, colleges, early childhood and vocational settings in all states and territories in Australia.

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne
AEU Federal President
0411 693 244 – Mobile

Steve Ryan
President
Queensland Teachers' Union
(07) 3512 9000 - Office