



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Media Release

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Time to commit to funding public education

The Australian Education Union (AEU) will meet with Federal politicians in Canberra today, seeking a commitment to the \$2.9 billion “Public Education – Australia’s Future” national campaign.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said it is time that all political parties made public education a priority and invested in the future of Australian children.

“The AEU’s \$2.9 billion claim represents the current annual shortfall in funding to public schools and is based on calculations for the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) by its Schools’ Resourcing Taskforce. It is a minimum figure as it does not include disability funding or capital works.

“The Howard Government has systematically under-funded public schools for the past 10 years which ultimately affects the 70 per cent of Australian children who attend public schools.

“With an election due by the end of next year, the AEU will be seeking assurances from the major parties to publicly commit to an injection of at least \$2.9 billion into the public school system.

“This will mean that all public schools will have the funding they need in order to ensure that all students can meet established national goals in literacy, numeracy and skill development.

“With a budget surplus of \$11 billion, there is no logical reason for the continuing decline in the proportion of schools’ education funding from the Howard Government to public schools.

“Education Minister Julie Bishop and the Howard Government have an opportunity to show leadership and end the blame shifting between state, territory and federal governments by ensuring that all schools are resourced to a national standard.

“Public Education *is* Australia’s future,” Ms Byrne said.

The AEU will be meeting with a number of federal politicians today.

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