



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

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### **COALITION FUNDING MODEL OVERPAYS PRIVATE SCHOOLS BY \$2 BILLION**

The Australian Education Union (AEU) again called on the Federal Government to address the inequity in the federal school funding system after it was revealed that private schools across Australia are receiving \$2 billion more of Commonwealth taxpayers' money than they are entitled to under the Government's own scheme.

Senate estimates data shows that under the "Socio-Economic Status" funding model introduced in 2001, private schools are receiving over \$2 billion more than the funding model allows.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said that the massive over-funding for private schools had been at the expense of the public school system.

"Nearly 70 per cent of Australian children attend public schools, but under the Howard Government the share of federal funding for public schools has fallen to little more than a third," said Ms. Byrne.

"These figures show that the Federal Government policy is simply making the inequities in the Australian education system worse."

"The Government is adding insult to injury by not adhering to its own funding guidelines."

The national AEU campaign, "Public Education: Australia's Future", includes a claim for an additional \$2.9 billion a year to be spent by the Federal Government on public education.

"We know from government research that schools are under-funded by nearly \$3 billion," said Ms Byrne.

"The Federal Government must take responsibility for the injection of funds that is needed after 10 years of neglect and undermining of the public education system."

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