



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

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### **World Teachers' Day a Time to Focus on the Future**

The Australian Education Union said that World Teachers' Day (Friday October 27) was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of teachers and to look at what needs to be done to maintain high standards of education in public schools.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne, said teachers and students would be marking the day with a range of activities at public schools around the country.

"Australia's schools rank among the best in the world and the expertise and effort of our teachers is a major factor in that," she said. "This is recognised in the day's theme: 'Quality Teachers for Quality Education'.

"But we also need to look at the issues facing the profession: teachers and schools have a vital role to play in equipping our young people for increasing technological, social and economic change. Students must be empowered as citizens locally, nationally and globally. They must learn to understand and value democratic and liberal values.

"Expert advice delivered to state and territory ministers shows that our public schools need an extra \$2.9 billion in funding a year to ensure all schools are able to continue to meet national learning goals.

"Instead of meeting this challenge we have a Federal Government which has slashed the share of education funding that public schools receive. They are now receiving almost \$1 billion a year less than they would have had if their 1996 share of Commonwealth funding had been maintained.

"On World Teachers' Day all governments should commit to ensuring that we have well-paid and well-supported teachers and to providing the funding that schools need so that all students achieve their potential," said Ms Byrne.

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