



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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FOI results reveal more federal government advertising to cover embarrassing schools funding record

The Australian Education Union today exposed the federal government's plans to waste more taxpayer money on misleading advertisements.

Results of a freedom of information request by the AEU show that the federal government has commissioned advertising on education and Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop has stated that the government may run the advertisement this year. Documents show that work on the advertisement began only one day after the AEU launched a TV campaign that shows the true record of the Howard Government on education.

The FOI documents show the agency commissioned by the Government was sent a briefing that includes combined state and federal public education funding figures.

"Whilst there are continuous attempts to create confusion on the issue of schools funding by blurring state and federal funding, in this federal election year it is critically important that we scrutinise the policy choices of the federal government," said AEU Deputy Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

"We stand by the facts in our advertising campaign: Since they were elected, the federal government has reduced the share of federal funding for public education from 42% to only 35%, even though nearly 70% of Australian children go to public schools."

"Why won't the government stand by its own record?"

"The federal government is so embarrassed by its real record on schools funding that it is preparing to spend millions to try to hide the fact that they have drastically reduced the share of funding for public schools.

"At least ten experienced teachers could be employed for every \$1 million the federal government spends on advertising.

"A ministerial taskforce has calculated that public schools require at least an additional \$2.9 billion per annum to achieve the National Goals of Schooling.

"The latest OECD figures on schools funding rank Australia with the third lowest proportion of public expenditure on education.

"The federal government's policy of under-funding public schools is undermining Australia's ability to perform on a world stage. Australia needs a government that will put public schools first," concluded Mr. Gavrielatos.

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