



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

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### **PUBLIC SCHOOLS DESERVE PRIORITY**

The Australian Education Union calls on the Australian Labor Party to guarantee that additional funding will be made available to Australia's public schools as a matter of priority.

"The Australian Labor Party's announcement that if elected it will preserve the inequitable SES funding model is a blow to the vast majority of Australian families whose children attend public schools", said AEU Federal President Ms Pat Byrne.

"When can parents of students in public schools expect to hear from Mr. Rudd about his funding commitment to public schools?"

"Every child in Australia deserves access to a high quality education and that is simply not possible without a properly-funded public education system.

"This announcement from Labor makes a mockery of its claim to support a funding model based on need and fairness. It will preserve a flawed system which sees the share of funding going to public schools continuing to fall.

"We do not support Labor's decision to maintain a system which is clearly not needs-based.

"We call on the ALP, if elected, to guarantee that sufficient additional education funding will be made available to Australia's public schools to address the current inequities and ensure that all children are able to access a high quality, well resourced public education system.

"The vast majority of Australian parents want any increase in federal funding for education to go to public schools.

"Independent research commissioned by the state and federal education ministers shows that at least \$2.9 billion in additional annual funding for public schools is needed to ensure every Australian child has access to a high quality education.

"Australia's future economic and social prosperity rests on a properly-funded public school system."

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