



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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12 June 2007

Federal Government blackmailing schools on teacher pay

The Federal Government's latest move to put out a tender for their flawed performance pay plan is yet another attempt to hold schools to ransom over funding, according to the Australian Education Union.

"This idea is universally opposed, yet the Federal Education Minister continues to persist with a cash-for-grades proposal for teacher pay instead of properly funding public education," said AEU Federal President Pat Byrne.

"Performance pay has failed everywhere it has been tried overseas and even the Minister's own research found it would not work and points out the pitfalls associated with linking pay to student results.

"By putting the tender out to finance and banking consultants rather than education experts the Minister has made it abundantly clear this has nothing to do with outcomes for our students.

"It's just an attempt to hold schools to ransom and interfere with the payment of teacher salaries which is a responsibility of the States.

"This is just a desperate attempt to get AWA's into schools and impose the Federal Government's IR laws on teachers.

"There is no question that teachers are underpaid and it is getting harder to keep our most experienced ones in the classroom.

"But treating them like car salesmen is the wrong approach.

"What we need to keep our teachers in the classroom is to increase pay rates and put in place a scheme that rewards all experienced teachers who reach professional standards in teaching.

"If the Howard Government was really worried about outcomes for Australian students in public schools, they would not have again reduced the share of federal funding for public education in the last budget.

"Public schools educate nearly 70% of students yet they receive only 35% of federal funding.

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