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AEU WELCOMES REJECTION OF FEDERAL PERFORMANCE PAY PLAN

The Australian Education Union welcomed today's rejection by State and Territory Education Ministers of Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop's performance pay plan for teachers.

AEU Federal President Pat Byrne said Minister Bishop's plan from the start had been an attempt to impose the Federal Government's extreme IR agenda on teachers and would not have delivered better educational outcomes for students.

"We welcome the rejection by State and Territory Education Ministers of the Federal Government's ill-conceived performance pay plan, as well as their condemnation of Julie Bishop's suggestion that performance bonuses would be funded by cutting some teachers' salaries."

"It is absolutely outrageous as well as irresponsible for Minister Bishop to suggest that teachers should be paid less when education systems across Australia are already struggling to retain teachers in the face of a national shortage."

"Now that Minister Bishop's performance pay plan has been scuttled we look forward to moving on to address the issue of Australia's growing teacher shortage in more productive ways."

"Performance pay has failed everywhere it has been tried and even Minister Bishop's own research says this."

"The AEU welcomes Opposition Education spokesperson Steven Smith's commitment to additional funding to reward quality teaching under a Labor Government."

"There is no question that teacher salaries need improvement across the board if we are to combat the growing teacher shortage across Australia."

"Recognising quality teaching through additional pay increases based on professional standards can only be a good thing."

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