



## Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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### NT intervention – Education is the key

The Australian Education Union calls on new Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin to make education programs and funding a key focus of a summit this weekend to consider the future of the Northern Territory federal intervention.

Acting AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said the union welcomed the early visit by the Minister to consult with Indigenous leaders in Darwin. The union said that leadership, backed up with resources and actions was absolutely crucial.

“An analysis of 2006 census data has shown that as many as 7500 Indigenous children in the NT are missing out on school or preschool or have no access to secondary or vocational education services,” said Mr. Gavrielatos.

“Research conducted by the AEU this year found that at least \$1.7 billion over five years in additional funding is needed to deliver a high quality education to all NT children.”

The AEU report *Education is the key: An education future for Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory* released in October found at least 1360 extra teachers are needed to ensure a high quality education for all students, along with up to 585 additional school staff, including bilingual Indigenous Assistant teachers, costing around \$264 million. It also recommends up to \$440 million for one-off infrastructure costs including new buildings.

“We’ve had a change of government but schools in the NT are still struggling with the consequences of the intervention, including lack of resources to deal with increased enrolments.

“Any plan to address problems in Indigenous communities in the NT needs to include long-term funding for education programs, and for the federal and NT governments to work in partnership with local communities,” said AEU NT Branch President, Nadine Williams.

“Anything less than this will leave NT Indigenous students at a disadvantage to the rest of Australia and perpetuate the problems we see today.

“Aboriginal children in our country are entitled to the same right to access high quality public education in their home communities as all other Australian children.”

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