



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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TAFE TEACHERS PLAN NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE FUNDING

TAFE teachers from every state and territory have condemned the Federal Government for its neglect of TAFE including cuts of around 26% over the last decade, at the TAFE Annual General Meeting concluding in Canberra today.

TAFE specialists from around the country met this weekend to develop a national campaign in the lead up to the Federal election.

"TAFE teachers reject the Government's moves to hand funding over to employers and individuals through vouchers and other incentives rather than fund the successful TAFE system," said Linda Simon, Federal TAFE President of the Australian Education Union.

"We call on all political parties to commit to properly funding and resourcing TAFE, and to ensuring the continuity of quality vocational education and training in Australia."

"The National TAFE Inquiry, recently conducted by independent inquirer Dr Peter Kell, revealed compelling evidence of student poverty and hardship around the country occurring as a result of the Howard Government's TAFE policies."

"TAFE must remain accessible to students."

"TAFE teachers also question why this Government is cutting funding to this critical public education and training sector at a time of skills shortages."

"A large focus of our campaign in 2007 will concentrate on increasing resources and commitments by all governments to TAFE and to addressing areas of student need."

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