



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006

Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800 Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805

Email : aeu@aeufederal.org.au Website : www.aeufederal.org.au

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BETRAYS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGAIN WITH INVESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS FUNDING REDUCTION

Recent changes to the Investing in Our Schools program to reduce funding available for public schools are just another example of the Federal Government's bias against public education, said the Australian Education Union today.

Public schools have had the amount of money they are eligible to apply for in the national grants program reduced by a third to a maximum of \$100,000 per school. The amount that private schools may apply for remains unchanged at \$75,000.

Australian Education Union Federal President, Ms Byrne said that the amount of funding given to private schools by the Federal Government had increased by 181% at the expense of public schools.

"The majority of Australian children attend public schools, but again and again the Federal Government cuts their funding."

"Despite the Prime Minister's recent announcement of extra money for the Investing in Our Schools grants program, public schools have now been told there is less funding available for them."

"The reduction funding available for public schools in this program by a third will have a dramatic effect."

"Many public schools will have been working hard on grants applications and planning for an extra \$50,000 in their budgets."

"Now that money won't exist and neither will the services it would have provided for students."

"The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), has calculated that public schools nationwide require an additional \$2.9 billion in recurrent funding so that the National Goals of Schooling can be met."

"Indeed, the \$2.9 billion dollars grossly underestimates the true level of funding required as it does not include costs associated with capital, nor specific costs associated with special education or quality teaching."

"Instead of addressing these shortages, the Federal Government continues to increase inequity."

"Public education now receives only 35% of Federal Government funding, despite the fact nearly 70% of Australian students are enrolled in public schools."

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne
AEU Federal President
0411 693 244

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879