



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPERT CALLS FOR MORE FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Governments worldwide, including Australia, must put more funds into public schooling as a looming global teaching shortage will leave the world short of 18 million primary school teachers in less than ten years according to an international education expert.

In his keynote address to the Australian Education Union Federal Conference in Canberra today, General Secretary of global education union, Education International, Fred van Leeuwen said the shortages were perhaps the most serious challenge the teaching profession has ever faced. However Mr van Leeuwen said that Australia ranks in the bottom half of OECD countries in per capita education expenditure, and Government funding is extremely low.

“Private education spending in Australia is higher than every other OECD country bar the USA and Korea,” said Mr van Leeuwen.

“With only 35% of Federal Government funding going to the 68% of Australian students attending public schools, it becomes apparent that the Federal Government has become principally a funder of private schooling in Australia.”

Australian Education Union President Ms Pat Byrne said that public education was a burning issue for working families in Australia.

“Public schools are receiving \$1 billion dollars less every year than they would have if funding had been maintained at the level it was at when the Howard Government was elected,” said Ms Byrne.

“Government research shows that public schools need an extra \$2.9 billion a year to ensure every school is able to meet national standards.”

“This year political parties must tell teachers and parents how they are going to tackle this funding shortfall.”

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