



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPERT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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 this week, the General Secretary of 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."

Fred van Leeuwen is available for comment today on the issues of teacher shortages, public education funding and comparisons of international education systems.

Please contact Erin Farley on 0409 510 879 if you would like to arrange an interview.

For further information, please contact:

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