



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 SCHOOLS ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER EXPOSES CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING

An announcement of \$181 million extra federal funding for schools just further exposes chronic under-funding of Australia public education, said the Australian Education Union today.

AEU Deputy Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said that while any money was welcome, the figure fell far short of what was needed.

“The \$127 million public schools will get out of this funding announcement doesn’t even come close to what schools need.”

“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.”

“The Federal Government has decreased the share of funding for public schools so that now nearly 70% of Australian children receive only 35% of the Federal Government’s education spending.”

“The most recent Productivity Commission Report shows that the Federal Government spends \$1051 per public school student compared to \$4515 per private school student.”

“Election year window dressing like this announcement will not address that imbalance.”

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Deputy Federal President
0418 423 531

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879