



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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NEEDS-BASED EDUCATION FUNDING MUST DELIVER MORE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Australian Education Union has called on the Australian Labor Party to demonstrate how its new education funding model will deliver quality education to all Australian students.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said that a true-needs based funding system would deliver a greater share of funding to drastically under-funded public schools.

"The AEU welcomes any move by the ALP to address the current inequity in Federal education funding," said Ms. Byrne.

"But any needs-based Federal education funding system in Australia must ensure public schools are the top priority because that is where the majority of Australian children are educated."

"Reports today indicate that Mr. Rudd has committed to make sure all schools are able to deliver quality education."

"We haven't seen how Labor plans to do this yet and would expect to contribute to the process of policy development."

"But we know from research by the Ministerial Council on Education Employment Training and Youth Affairs that public schools need an additional \$2.9 billion per year in order to reach the national goals of schooling."

"A true needs-based funding policy should address the current funding imbalance which sees public education get only 35% of Federal Government education funding even though nearly 70% of Australian students attend public schools."

"Our view is that public schools would receive a larger share of federal funding in the future as this inequity is addressed."

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