



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

20 August 2007

Independent schools sector research confirms the imbalance of federal education funding

The Australian Education Union said research released by the Association of Independent Schools Victoria today confirms the imbalance of federal education funding, which sees the vast majority of federal money spent on private schools.

AEU Federal President, Pat Byrne said the research reportedly shows the Federal Government in fact spent \$937 per public school student and \$4419 per private school student in 2004/05.

“Despite the fact that almost 70 per cent of students in Australia attend public schools, the Federal Government has cut the percentage of money it spends on public education from 43 per cent to 35 per cent in the last decade.

“That is what the Education Minister, Julie Bishop should be explaining rather than hiding behind state funding figures in an attempt to mask the dramatic cut in the share of money the Federal Government has allocated to public schools,” Ms. Byrne said.

“It is simply ridiculous to compare the direct costs of schooling between the public and private sectors.

“The cost of establishing and maintaining a high quality public education system across Australia is far greater than the costs associated with running private schools. Public schools exist in all communities and educate all children, irrespective of their backgrounds.

We know that public schools across Australia are presently under funded by approximately \$2.9 billion per year.

“Australia needs a federal government which puts public schools first; a government which will prioritise federal funding to ensure that all public schools are properly resourced to enable all students to reach their potential,” Ms. Byrne said.

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne
AEU Federal President
0411 693 244

Kate Rielley
Media
0414 873 625