



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Teachers Support Standards Not Political Stunts

"The proposals flagged by the Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop today will not deliver better outcomes for Australian students," said AEU Deputy Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

Mr. Gavrielatos said that the Minister's proposal is simplistic and aimed at getting headlines.

"A cash-for-grades scheme won't work and has failed wherever it's been tried," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

"How can you compare educational outcomes in a Special Education setting with outcomes in an academically selective setting? How do you compare the work of those teachers with the work of teachers in socio-economically depressed areas?"

"Subjective assessments turn teaching into a popularity contest and pit teacher against teacher in the school environment."

Whilst rejecting Minister Bishop's ill-informed proposal, the AEU is prepared to negotiate agreements which properly recognise and reward quality teaching.

"Earlier this month Minister Bishop unveiled a proposal which would allow unqualified teachers into classrooms. So much for her concern about standards!"

"There is no greater defender of teaching standards than teachers themselves. Teaching is already one of the most accountable professions in Australia. Processes have been negotiated by teacher unions to deal with under-performing teachers in every state and territory."

"Today's announcement is about industrial relations, not education."

"The Federal Government is intent on imposing its unpopular industrial relations agenda on schools by introducing individual contracts (AWAs) and forcing teachers to compete for bonuses based on test scores."

"This stunt is an attempt to divert attention from the unfair funding policies of the Howard Government. Nearly 70% of Australian students attend public schools which receive only 35% of federal education funding."

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