



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST RECEIVE PRIORITY

The Australian Labor Party must make public schools the priority for Federal education funding, said the Australian Education Union today.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said that public schools had been systematically under-funded by the Federal Government for over a decade and urgently needed increased funding.

“The share of Federal funding for public schools has decreased since Howard was elected until now they receive only 35%, despite the fact that nearly 70% of Australian children attend public schools.”

“By skewing funding away from public schools, the Howard Government has been making it harder for thousands of Australian children.”

“Labor is on the right track by announcing a needs-based policy but it’s clear the need is greatest in public schools.”

“Now Labor needs to focus on what is fundamentally needed to make our education system better.”

“If Labor is serious about not having a two-tiered education system in Australia it needs to fix the imbalance in Federal education funding.”

“That means a significant investment for public schools and acting immediately to repair the damage of over a decade of under-funding by the Howard Government.”

“Labor proposed \$2 billion in extra funding for public schools at the last Federal election and the need has only increased since then.”

“The ALP platform stresses the need for public schools to have priority and we expect that Labor will follow that.”

“A national Ministerial taskforce found that an additional \$2.9 billion is needed in recurrent annual funding for schools to meet national standards so that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.”

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