



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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25 May 2007

THOUSANDS OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS MISS OUT ON SCHOOL BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDING

The Australian Education Union has called on the Federal Government to back up their comments on Indigenous education by increasing funding for Government schools. Indigenous students are still being denied access to education.

“The reason thousands of Aboriginal children don’t go to school is because of the simple fact that there is no school in their home community,” said Angelo Gavrielatos, AEU Deputy Federal President.

“Every child should be able to access a high quality education in the community where they live, but for many Aboriginal students this is impossible.

“Warren Snowdon recently commented that in the Northern Territory alone, there are as many as 5,000 Indigenous students who miss out on access to basic secondary education. The result of this is that kids either leave home to go to boarding school or they miss out altogether. That is not good enough.

“AEU research also estimates around 10,000 Indigenous students are missing out on all important pre-school and early childhood education programs, which are the foundation for literacy development.

“In a recent national poll of coalition-held marginal seats 94% of voters agreed that Indigenous children should have access to quality education in the local community like other Australian children.

“It is the Federal Government’s responsibility to ensure that Indigenous students have access to high quality public education in their home communities.

“Until this occurs the realisation of a generation of bi-lingual Indigenous youth, who are literate in both their home language and English, will be unattainable.”

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