



## ***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](mailto:aeu@aeufederal.org.au) Website : [www.aeufederal.org.au](http://www.aeufederal.org.au)

25 October 2007

### **AEU BACKS BCA CALL FOR LEADERSHIP, INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION**

The Australian Education Union welcomed and supported the Business Council of Australia President Michael Chaney's call last night for leadership and investment in education.

"The AEU welcomes the BCA's call for leadership from Canberra and for the direction of some \$4 billion from the Federal surplus into improving school education.

"Mr. Chaney's speech demonstrates how far removed the federal government is from the needs of both students and business.

"The AEU particularly welcomes the fact that the BCA not only recognises the critical role of quality teaching in getting world-class outcomes, but is prepared to back this with a call for substantial investment.

"Unlike Federal Minister for Education Julie Bishop who promotes a simplistic 'rob Peter to pay Paul' version of performance pay, the BCA recognises that significant investment to encourage and reward excellence in teaching standards is crucial.

"As acknowledged by the BCA, Australian schools do produce world-class outcomes but there is a growing disparity in outcomes for some students and many young Australians leave school without adequate levels of education and training.

"Substantial investment to boost the teaching profession and ensure quality learning environments is desperately needed to ensure that disadvantage is not worsened as our economy booms.

"The AEU also welcomes the BCA's support for appropriate remuneration for teachers and for recognising and rewarding quality teaching by the establishment of objective mechanisms, such as the use of national teaching standards, rather than a 'cash for grades' scenario as proposed by the federal government.

"The AEU is undertaking research under the auspices of the University of NSW to develop its own professional pay proposal to recognise professional standards of accomplished teachers.

"We don't agree with everything the BCA says, but we are united in calling for vision and leadership which is distinctly absent at the highest level of Australian governments and politics."

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne  
AEU Federal President  
0411 693 244

Erin Farley  
Media  
0409 510 879