



## **Australian Education Union - Federal Office**

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### **BOOST TEACHER PAY TO ENSURE HEALTHY ECONOMY**

Increasing teacher salaries and improving their working conditions is vital for the future of the Australian economy and society, said the Australian Education Union today on **World Teachers' Day**.

"Better working conditions for teachers mean better learning conditions for students," said AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne.

"That means increasing overall teacher salaries, recognising professional development and experience with new pay scales and properly funding public schools.

"Teachers are underpaid compared with the average Australian professional wage and salaries must improve.

"In the lead up to the federal election we are calling on parties to tell teachers, parents and students across Australia how they are going to bring teacher salaries in line with other professions nationally.

"Just yesterday we had the Business Council of Australia calling for \$4 billion to increase teacher salaries and the profession's attractiveness.

"This is recognition that Australia must boost the teaching profession to ensure our education system remains world class and able to cope with the challenges of today's economy.

"But the best pay system in the world won't work if we don't have the school resources to improve teacher working conditions and learning environments for students.

"It doesn't matter how much you pay a teacher, if their classes are too big or their workload is unmanageable, it's going to be hard for them to achieve quality student outcomes.

"The AEU is calling for a new professional pay structure to recognise experienced teachers who reach professional standards with salary increases to encourage professional excellence and retain the best teachers in Australian public schools.

"At the same time we are campaigning for increased funding for public education to address issues like class sizes and workload that are driving teachers from the profession.

"Independent state government research has shown that Australian schools need an additional \$2.9 billion in annual funding so that every child has access to a high quality education.

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