



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 Website : www.aeufederal.org.au

27 February, 2007

Federal Funding Delivers Unfair School System

The Australian Education Union said today new school enrolment figures were the inevitable result of the Federal Government's funding policies which were starving public schools of resources.

AEU Federal President, Ms Pat Byrne said that the increased enrolments in private schools follow a decade in which the Federal Government has slashed the share of education funding it delivers to public schools.

"In 1996 public schools received 42 per cent of federal education funding and now the figure is down to 35 per cent," she said. "This means approximately \$1 billion per year less going to public schools than would have been the case if the '96 proportion had been maintained."

"The Howard Government is making it harder for working families by decreasing the share of funding that public schools receive. While public schools teach almost 70 per cent of students they get only 35 per cent of federal funding."

"All Australian parents have the right to expect that their children will be educated in properly resourced schools. This Federal Government consciously prioritises the funding of private schools to the detriment of public schools.

"The Government's own research shows that public schools need at least an additional \$2.9 billion a year to ensure that national goals of schooling can be met across Australia.

"The Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop, should be working to ensure **all** schools are properly resourced, rather than making things harder for working families by systematically under funding public schools."

For further information, please contact:

Pat Byrne
AEU Federal President
0411 693 244

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879