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STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY JANUARY 30

NEW SURVEY: LACK OF RESOURCES, WORKLOAD DRIVING NEW TEACHERS AWAY

Nearly half of beginning teachers in a new survey by the Australian Education Union do not see themselves in the profession in ten years time, compounding concerns of growing teacher shortages in Australia.

AEU Federal President Pat Byrne said the survey of over one thousand public school teachers with one to three years experience showed that issues stemming from lack of funding were driving teachers away.

“The four top concerns for new teachers were workload, behaviour management, pay and class sizes, all issues directly related to having enough funding to adequately resource schools,” said Ms. Byrne.

“The survey showed that even new teachers who have changed professions to enter teaching do not see themselves having long term careers in the industry.”

“They are worried about job security, with around half reporting they had been unable to negotiate permanent ongoing employment, and were instead on fixed term contracts.”

“They are also worried about professional support, with over thirty percent stating professional development was a concern, and over forty percent said they had been asked to teach outside their area of expertise.”

“The Federal Government’s new IR laws also came out as a key concern and a overwhelming majority of those surveyed were not comfortable with the idea of negotiating their own pay and conditions.”

“Public schools are receiving \$1 billion less per year than if 1996 funding share had been maintained.”

“And independent research shows that the public education system needs at least \$2.9 billion in additional recurrent funding to be able to meet national schooling goals.”

“Lack of resources means new teachers have less incentive to stay in the profession, and this will continue to drive teacher shortages.”

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