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SURVEY SHOWS LOCAL BRADDON SCHOOLS FUNDRAISING TO PAY FOR BASIC RESOURCES

Media opportunity

AEU Federal President Ms Pat Byrne and local Principal David Cashion will be available for interview at 10:30am Wednesday, 31st October at Wesley Vale Primary School, West Wind Drive, Wesley Vale.

A spot survey of public school principals in the marginal federal electorate of Braddon conducted by the Australian Education Union, echoes results of a national survey of marginal seats which reveals local schools are fund-raising to pay for basic resources.

At the same time analysis by the AEU of Productivity Commission figures shows that schools in Braddon would have received an additional \$34,898,414 last year if they had received the same level of federal government funding as private schools.

Nationally 84% of respondents in the survey of public school principals in marginal electorates rate school fundraising as important or very important to their school budget. In Braddon principals say they are relying on voluntary contributions and fund-raising to pay for curriculum resources and their priorities for additional funding are building maintenance, more help for individual students and learning resources.

Other key findings of the national survey include:

- 79% of principals have experienced problems with teacher supply.
- 81% don't have enough resources to deal with violent and disruptive students.
- 84% believe anti-bullying strategies are not adequately funded.
- 71% rate the Federal Government's performance in relation to public education as poor or very poor.
- 84% oppose the Federal Government's performance pay proposal.
- 80% felt the Federal Government's literacy and numeracy vouchers were poorly targeted to the needs of their school.

Local principal David Cashion said the school committee at Wesley Vale had recently held a fair to raise extra funds for essential school services.

"We always need more resources to pay for literacy and numeracy programs and to keep class sizes low so that kids with special needs get the individual attention they deserve," said Mr. Cashion.

AEU Federal President Pat Byrne says the Federal Government's failure to adequately fund public schools made it harder for students and parents.

"Public school principals are telling us that they don't have enough resources and that means parents and school communities are doing the hard fundraising work to pay for basic school services.

"Government research shows that our public schools need \$2.9 billion per year in additional recurrent funding in order to meet national goals for schooling."

"That funding would help to provide schools with extra teachers and other resources they need to ensure every Australian student gets the opportunity to reach their full potential."

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