



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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BENCHMARK TESTING RESULTS DEMONSTRATE NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT TARGETED FUNDING

Public schools need significant targeted funding from the federal government to address areas of need identified by the results of national benchmark testing of Year 3, 5 and 7 students, released today.

While the majority of all students reached national benchmarks, results show Indigenous students and students in remote areas continue to lag behind.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said:

"We welcome the fact that the majority of Year 3, 5 and 7 students are meeting national benchmarks.

"But in order to ensure every Australian student can not only meet standards but excel beyond them, we need a significant investment of targeted funding for public education.

"Targeted funding can be tailored to address areas of need through appropriate intervention and extension programs to cater for all students from those who are being left behind through to our most gifted and talented.

"The national testing results emphasise the urgent need for investment to ensure Indigenous students get the same opportunities as other Australian students.

"A study of census data by the AEU last year showed that as many as 7500 students in the Northern Territory alone do not have access to school.

"The AEU has called for a \$2.9 billion comprehensive national numeracy and literacy strategy to meet the current short-fall in public school funding, underpinned by six key areas:

1. A curriculum guarantee for all students.
2. Class sizes need to be reduced.
3. Competitive professional teacher salaries so we can recruit and retain the best teachers.
4. The provision of 21st Century learning environments including modern buildings and equipment.
5. A national strategy to provide Indigenous students with the same education opportunities as the rest of Australians.
6. Provide every child with at least 20 hours of qualified early childhood education per week to give them the best possible foundation for the future.

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