



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*

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PRIVATE SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL DISTORTED CORRUPT AND DISCREDITED

The Australian Education Union calls on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to abandon the Federal Government's commitment to the existing private school funding model in light of reports today.

A story in the Sydney Morning Herald reveals that a secret report on private school funding shows the current funding model entrenches inequity and is unsustainable.

Australian Education Union Acting Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said the secret report should be made public immediately.

"The current private school funding model is distorted, corrupt and discredited.

"Prime Minister Rudd must abandon the Government's decision to maintain the SES funding model until 2012.

"It is an indefensible and unsustainable system that is not in the national interest.

"It means schools receive funding based not on the individual wealth of parents but on the entire census area.

"In addition, around 60% of private schools continue to receive more funding than they are entitled to even if the distorted funding formula was properly applied.

"The primary obligation of all governments is to fund a public education system of the highest quality.

"A government report commissioned by MCEETYA shows Australian public schools are underfunded by a minimum of \$2.9 billion per year."

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Acting Federal President
0418 423 531

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879