



## **Australian Education Union - Federal Office**

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### **AUSTRALIA NEAR BOTTOM OF OECD ON EDUCATION SPENDING**

New OECD figures demonstrate the urgent need for increased public education funding, with Australia now ranked second last out of developed nations.

The latest OECD *Education at a glance* report shows:

- Australia ranks second last out of 27 OECD nations in public expenditure on public institutions, with only Belgium spending less.
- Experienced teachers are paid significantly less than the OECD average but teach longer hours and more weeks than most OECD nations.

“Australia’s shocking rankings in this report are the legacy of underfunding by the Howard Government,” said Australian Education Union Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

“The Rudd Government now has the responsibility for addressing the chronic underspending that has left the Australian public education system grossly underfunded.

“These figures demonstrate the urgent need to increase public education funding if we are to compete successfully in the global economy.

“Government research shows public education needs at least \$2.9 billion in additional annual funding in order to give every child the opportunity to gain a high quality education.”

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