



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

10 November 2008

AEU President and North Coast teachers urge local MPs to support greater federal investment in public schools

Australian Education Union Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos will visit North Coast schools today to join local teachers and principals in urging federal members of parliament, Justine Elliot and Janelle Saffin to support greater investment in public schools.

Ballina High School teacher, Paula Horsley said that more funding would allow her school to upgrade buildings and facilities while Kingscliff teacher, Bob Seltin said class sizes and increasing individual attention for those students who need it were key issues for his school.

"All students deserve safe and modern learning environments with low class sizes. Greater individual attention is vital to programs that deliver quality education, such as remedial reading and maths," said Mr Seltin.

"Our school is calling for greater Commonwealth funding for public schools, and urge our local member to represent the needs and aspirations of her constituents" Mr Seltin said.

The experience of local north coast schools echoes state and nation-wide concerns as revealed in a recent AEU commissioned survey of almost 400 NSW principals, which found the majority (81.1%) of schools had undertaken fundraising in the last year, (73.4%) for basic classroom equipment followed by Library resources and textbooks (61.1%) and sporting teams and play equipment (53.2%).

TV commercials have been airing in the North Coast urging parents and teachers to send a message to politicians before the November 28 COAG meeting at which the Federal Government will decide on the total level of funding for public schools.

"We urge every parent to visit our campaign website at www.forourfuture.org.au before November 28 to tell politicians that greater investment in public schools must be a top priority for the Federal Government," said AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos.

"A government taskforce has calculated at least \$2.9 billion in additional annual investment is needed to ensure a high quality education for every child.

"Together parents and teachers can make a difference," Mr Gavrielatos said.

Press conference details:

Speakers: National AEU President, Angelo Gavrielatos; Kingscliff High School teacher, Bob Seltin; Ballina High School teacher, Paula Horsley

When: Monday November 10th

**Where: 10:45am Kingscliff High School, 33 Oxford St Kingscliff;
12:45pm Ballina High School, Burnet St Ballina**

For more information please contact Elisha Johnson 0432 828 004

Mr Angelo Gavrielatos, National President AEU 0488 012 045

Nicole Major, Country Organiser, NSW Teachers' Federation 0437 570 594