



12 October 2008

Public Education For Our Future: Campaign launch today

The Australian Education Union will launch a new national campaign today calling for parents and teachers to work together to get more Federal Government funding for public schools.

As part of the campaign the union is rolling out a new television advertisement and website that will accompany local activities as teachers and the parents of Australia's 2.2 million public school students join to ensure the Federal Government invests more in public schools.

The campaign launch comes as a national survey of public school principals shows lack of funding is compromising the quality of education in public schools.

The **2008 AEU State of Our Schools survey** of 1396 principals across the country reveals:

- The majority of schools have been forced to fundraise to pay for basic classroom equipment in the past year
- 69.8% believe their school needs a major upgrade in facilities and/or equipment
- 100% of secondary schools are reporting teacher shortages and 73.6% believe the problem is worsening
- 76.1% say lack of federal funding has left their school unable to do basic maintenance on buildings and facilities.

"Australia's public schools play a vital role in ensuring every child can get a high quality education," said AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

"Kevin Rudd promised an Education Revolution but that will not happen without significant investment in public schools.

"The National Education Agreement due to be finalised over the next four weeks as part of the COAG process gives the Federal Government an opportunity to ensure public schools get the investment they deserve.

"The agreement provides an opportunity to increase general funding for public schools and announce further targeted funding to address disadvantage.

"Government research shows public schools need at least \$2.9 billion in additional annual funding. More investment would allow public schools to reduce class sizes, provide more individual attention for students who need it and modernize buildings and equipment.

"According to our survey of principals the top priorities for additional funding nationally are more help for individual students (80.4%) and building improvements and maintenance (70.8%).

"There is no better investment for the future than in our public schools."

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President
0488 012 045

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879