



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

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### **TAFE TEACHERS RENEW CALL FOR FUNDING**

TAFE teachers from around Australia will renew their call for an additional \$470 million funding in 2008 at their AGM in Sydney today.

AEU Federal TAFE President Linda Simon says the TAFE system is crucial to Australia's ability to train and maintain a skilled workforce.

"TAFE teachers are calling on the new Federal Government to address over a decade of funding cuts to the sector. Over 26% of TAFE funding has been cut in real terms since 1997.

"Australia's future economic strength and stability relies on us having a workforce that is skilled and able to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

"TAFE is the best way to deliver that continuing training.

"Now it is up to the Rudd government to ensure that the 1.3 million or so students who study at TAFE each year have the recognition, support and resources that they need to successfully undertake their studies."

"In the lead-up to the Federal election, the AEU lodged a claim for additional funding over the next four years to ensure that TAFE can meet the projected growth in enrolments and take on the issues of skills shortages and higher level qualifications," said Ms Simon.

"As part of our claim, the AEU recognised the need to invest in our teachers and quality teaching. We have proposed a Quality Improvement Fund, requiring a resource commitment of \$120 million in 2008," said Ms Simon.

"Such a fund would address continuing professional development for teachers, the need to increase permanency amongst TAFE teachers and the need to attract new and younger teachers into TAFE."

"TAFE teachers around Australia expect the Rudd Government to reaffirm its commitment to vocational education and training by increasing its investment in TAFE and undoing the damage done during the Howard years."

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