



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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PRINCIPLES FOR THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

The first step in the Rudd Government's Education Revolution should be to invest \$2.9 billion in a national literacy and numeracy strategy. Government research shows that public schools are under-funded by a minimum of \$2.9 billion per year.

To support the national strategy, the AEU has outlined six key areas that require significant additional targeted funding to ensure the Education Revolution is successful.

AEU Federal President-elect Angelo Gavrielatos announced the principles for success in his speech to the 2008 AEU Federal Conference following the release of new polling today that shows that the neglect of public education by the Coalition was a key issue in switching votes to Labor in the 2007 federal election.

"We call on the Rudd Government to meet voters' expectations by addressing the current \$2.9 billion annual short-fall in public education funding," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

"The \$2.9 billion investment should support the development and implementation of a comprehensive national literacy and numeracy strategy in public schools.

"This would be the first step in addressing over a decade of neglect by the Howard Government of public education.

"The key to educational success is the attainment of the highest possible literacy and numeracy standards for all students.

"To support the national literacy and numeracy strategy, the AEU is calling for further targeted funding for six key areas:

1. A curriculum guarantee for all students.
2. The reduction of class sizes.
3. Competitive professional teacher salaries so we can recruit and retain the best teachers.
4. The provision of 21st Century learning environments including modern buildings and equipment.
5. A national strategy to provide Indigenous students with the same education opportunities as other Australians.
6. The provision for every four year old child of at least 20 hours of quality early childhood education per week.

"Implementation of these principles through adequate funding is crucial to improve the quality of education and arrest the exodus of teachers from the profession.

"The AEU is ready to work in cooperation with the Rudd Government to implement these key principles to ensure that every child has access to a public school of the highest quality in their own community.

"Beyond schooling, the Education Revolution must also invest in TAFE to ensure further education and a skilled workforce for Australia's future."

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Acting Federal President
0418 423 531

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879