



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

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16 January 2008

### **NEW POLL: VOTERS WANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE TOP PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION REVOLUTION**

The results of a national poll released today show the majority of Australians agree that there will be no Education Revolution unless the Labor Government invests substantially more in public education.

AEU Federal President-elect Angelo Gavrielatos said Australians have a clear expectation that the Rudd Government will make investing in public schools their top priority.

"A properly funded public education system is the key to ensuring all children have an opportunity to get a high quality education," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

Conducted among 600 voters by research and communication company Essential Media Communications, the poll showed that:

- 82% agree or strongly agree there will be no education revolution unless the Labor Government invests substantially more in public education
- 71% of Australians say education was important or very important in determining their vote, versus only 27% for whom it was not important
- 60% of people who switched their vote from the Coalition to Labor in the 2007 election said the Howard Government's neglect of public education was an important factor in determining their vote.
- 67% agree or strongly agree that the Rudd Government should make investing in public schools their top priority.

"Government research has found that public schools are under-funded by at least \$2.9 billion annually.

"Meeting this shortfall should be the first step in the Education Revolution.

"Well-funded public schools give every child the opportunity to reach their full potential.

"Public education remains the key for a vibrant, socially cohesive and prosperous Australia," said Mr. Gavrielatos.

#### **Media opportunity**

**AEU Federal President-elect Angelo Gavrielatos will deliver his inaugural speech to the 2008 AEU Federal Conference, followed by a short media conference.**

**When: 10 am, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**Where: Turner Hall, TAFE NSW Sydney Institute (Ultimo Campus), corner Mary Ann and Harris Street, Ultimo.**

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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