



16 April 2008

TIME FOR ACTION ON EDUCATION REVOLUTION

It's time to start committing real dollars to improving education outcomes for students said the Australian Education Union ahead of the Ministerial Council meetings tomorrow.

"With Labor governments nationwide an historic opportunity now exists for the Commonwealth to end the blame shifting games and work cooperatively to fulfil governments' primary obligation to public education," said AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

"There will be no education revolution without a significant funding injection for public education.

"No further evidence is needed to demonstrate that increased funding for public schools and TAFE is the key to improving education outcomes for all students nationwide.

"MCEETYA's own research shows that public schools nationwide are under-funded to the tune of \$2.9 billion per year.

"Meeting this shortfall is necessary to ensure that we can continue to strive for the highest standards and excellence for all students.

"As teachers and educators, we remain ready and committed to fulfilling our responsibility to achieve the highest possible standards in our class rooms. However we do not work in a vacuum.

"Similarly TAFE needs an immediate funding increase of at least \$470 million if Governments are serious about tackling the skills shortage.

"The AEU calls on Ministers to reject recommendations to increase competition and contestable funding like vouchers for vocation education and training, which have contributed to the skills shortage over the last decade.

"Planned provision through guaranteed funding to TAFE is the best way to ensure Australians are trained for the 21st century job market.

"Free, secular, universally accessible public education remains the key for a vibrant, socially cohesive and prosperous Australia."

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Federal President
0488 012 045

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879