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NEW STUDY: PRESSURE MOUNTS ON GOVERNMENT TO REFORM SCHOOLS FUNDING

A new report today confirms public schools are severely disadvantaged by current Commonwealth funding arrangements.

A new study by the Australian Council for Education Research reveals that the funding nexus between public and private schools delivers a disproportionate benefit to private schools.

AEU Federal President-elect Angelo Gavrielatos said the current funding system is discredited and inequitable.

“Funding levels for private schools are indexed to the cost of educating children in public schools.

“Because public schools enrol approximately 90% of students with disabilities, Aboriginal students and those from isolated and remote settings, the average cost of this public education provision is higher than in private schools.

“This leaves public schools severely disadvantaged. The Government cannot justify a funding nexus which delivers millions of dollars in profits to private schools.

“We welcome Minister for Education Julia Gillard’s statement today on radio that the Labor Government wants to deliver better consistency and transparency across the school system.

“But it is clear that the current funding system cannot accomplish this.

“The Federal Government must abandon its commitment to maintain this unfair and inequitable funding system until 2012.

“Government reports show that public schools are under-funded by at least \$2.9 billion per year,” said Mr Gavrielatos.

For further information, please contact:

Angelo Gavrielatos
Acting Federal AEU President
0488 012 045

Erin Farley
Media
0409 510 879