



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

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### **Teachers call on government to fund professional pay**

The Australian Education Union welcomes a Business Council of Australia proposal calling for \$4 billion to double the top rate of pay for teachers, but warns that increased funding for public schools is also needed.

“A competitive professional salary is crucial to attract and retain teachers in the numbers required to guarantee a qualified teacher in every classroom in Australia,” said AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

“The BCA proposal also provides a framework for further remuneration and recognition of quality teaching, knowledge, skills and practice based on a voluntary assessment against a set of valid standards.

“The next step is for governments to provide the investment needed to improve teaching and learning conditions.

“Teaching salaries are low in comparison to other professions and we need to increase them across the board if we are going to tackle Australia’s growing teaching shortage.

“This proposal contrasts the simplistic cash-for-grades system proposed by the Howard Government.

“It is crucial that improvements to teacher salary structures are accompanied by an increase in resources for public education to improve teaching and learning conditions.

“This requires a commitment from governments to reduce class sizes, to resource effective programs for students with special needs and to provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments including modern buildings and equipment.

“The public schools nation-wide are under-funded by at least \$2.9 billion annually according to independent government research.”

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