



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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SUCCESS OF THE NATION BUILT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Australian Education Union is congratulating public schools across Australia today for **Public Education Day**.

"Public education is the cornerstone of Australian society," said AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos.

"We owe the success of our nation to the work of public schools which through history have provided every child an equal opportunity to succeed no matter what their social, religious or economic background.

"Public schools across Australia will be celebrating the day in a variety of ways.

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

"We call on all levels of government to embrace the value of Australian public education and what it means to the continued success of the nation.

"We also call on governments to fulfill their obligations to adequately resource public schools.

"After more than a decade of neglect under John Howard, it is now up to the Rudd Government to redress chronic funding shortages across the public education system.

"Government research shows Australian public schools are under-funded by at least \$2.9 billion annually.

"Adequate funding would enable public schools to further raise overall student performance and address under-achievement.

"With enough funding public schools could reduce class sizes, resource effective programs for students with special needs and provide 21st Century learning environments including modern buildings and equipment."

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