



16 January 2009

New report shows welcome - but insufficient - increase in Commonwealth funding for public schools

A new report to be launched today at the AEU Federal Conference reveals Commonwealth funding for public schools has increased under the Rudd Government.

AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos welcomed the increase, but said it was still insufficient to redress the chronic underfunding of public schools.

"While we do acknowledge what is the first serious investment in public schools in over a decade, this must be put in perspective," Mr Gavrielatos said.

Dr Jim McMorrow's report, *'Updating the evidence: The Rudd Government's intentions for schools'*, projects that the share of Commonwealth funding for public schools will increase from 35 per cent to 37.1 per cent by 2011-12.

"Although positive, this increased share of funding for public schools will still be lower than the 43.1 per cent that applied when the Howard Government took office.

"Public schools require an additional \$1.4 billion to restore the 1995-96 funding share of Commonwealth funding.

Mr Gavrielatos said the increased funding to address underachievement associated with socio economic disadvantage was necessary, but it was inadequate.

"Public schools must not only be resourced to address underachievement, but also to lift the overall performance of all students.

"This is central to strengthening social inclusion and the productivity of the nation," Mr Gavrielatos said.

Key Points:

- **The share of Commonwealth funding for public schools is now projected to increase to 37.1 per cent by 2011-12, as a result of the *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)* and the Council of Australia Governments (COAG) agreement.**
- **The extra \$2.8 billion for public schools from the COAG agreement is less than the funding the Commonwealth is providing to guarantee above-formula recurrent grants to private schools.**
- **The increased COAG funding to public schools will see the share of the Commonwealth schools budget in 2011-12 to government schools increase to 37.1 per cent. This is still lower than the 43.1 per cent that applied when the Howard Government took office in the mid 1990s.**
- **It would require an additional \$1.4 billion to restore the 1995-96 funding share.**

Up to 100 teachers and educators from across the country are expected to attend the 25th Annual Federal Conference of the Australian Education Union to be held from Friday January 16th – Sunday January 18th at Conferences on Clarendon, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, VIC.

AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos will address the Conference today at 10am. Media are invited to attend.

Angelo Gavrielatos will then hold a media conference at approximately 10.45am.

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