



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006
Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800 Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805
Email : aeu@aeufederal.org.au Website : www.aeufederal.org.au

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AEU Questions Value of Teach for Australia

The Australian Education Union today questioned why the Federal Government is spending \$22 million on a program that is delivering 45 unqualified teachers into schools.

Information supplied by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations shows the money will be spent on the Teach for Australia program which aims to put graduates into classrooms after only six weeks training.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said that at a time when the nation was facing a growing shortage of secondary teachers the money would be better spent on expanding teacher training in universities and providing more mentoring and support for young teachers.

“Under Teach for Australia it costs 15 times more to train a teacher than it does in a comprehensive teacher training program,” Mr Gavrielatos said.

“Why are we spending \$22 million on a program to put unqualified people into schools?”

“Instead of copying failed American strategies like Teach for America, the Federal Government would be better off giving students what they need: qualified teachers.

“Every child deserves to be taught by a qualified teacher.

“The supply of teachers is a major problem across the country with the AEU’s annual survey of principals recently revealing 59 per cent of schools had problems getting the teachers they needed.

“A total of 57 per cent of principals said problems with the supply of teachers were getting worse. Secondary school teachers are also third on the list of professions where the most new jobs are expected in the next five years according to Skills Australia.”

The funding information was supplied in response to a Question on Notice from Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young. The department said \$13.8 million of the money will be given to the Teach for Australia organisation, based in Collins Street in Melbourne, which is using it for such things as marketing and support.

Angelo Gavrielatos
AEU Federal President
0488 012 045

Mark Robinson
Communications & Campaign Coordinator
0403 043 151