



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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World Teachers' Day – Lets Recognise and Reward Our Teachers

The Australian Education Union said today that World Teachers' Day (October 30, 2009) provides an opportunity to recognise the value and importance of teachers in our society.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said teachers play a critical role in providing people of all ages with the skills and education they needed to fulfill their potential.

"Teachers make a difference for individuals, for communities and for our nation as a whole," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"It is important to remind ourselves that few professions can have such a profound impact on a society.

"But at a time where there is a global shortage of teachers we must invest more in teachers and teaching to ensure we can get the best people into the profession and retain our most skillful and experienced teachers.

"In two recent polls conducted by the AEU, members of the public and school principals both said investing more in teachers should be the number one priority for the Federal Government.

"Australian teachers are among the best in the world and yet experienced teachers receive below-average wages when compared to those in other major nations.

"Our State of our Schools poll this week revealed 59 per cent of schools had trouble getting the teachers they needed and for 57 per cent the problem was getting worse.

"Australia needs a national strategy to tackle teacher shortages and ensure we are appropriately rewarding our teachers for the critical work that they do.

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