



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Governments Have An Obligation to Students in Public Schools

In response to the Federal Government's Empowering Local Schools policy announced today, AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said:

"Government respect for teacher and principal professional judgement and leadership in schools is essential.

"However, governments also have a primary obligation to properly and adequately resource our schools.

"That means ensuring there is a high quality curriculum and sufficient qualified teachers and resources in every school to deliver it.

"It is the only way that we can ensure that all children, wherever they go to school, have a high quality education.

"The AEU would oppose any diminution by governments of their fundamental responsibility to ensure all our schools are adequately staff and resourced.

"We are also concerned about policies which would cause an increase in the administrative burden placed upon principals taking them away from their critical role as education leaders.

"The top priority for political parties in this election should be investing more in our public schools.

"The union welcomes the additional Family Tax Benefit payments announced by the Government.

"The Prime Minister has correctly identified the critical importance of students completing their secondary education.

"Having 90 per cent of students finish Year 12 or its equivalent by 2015 is a worthy target and extra support for families will make a difference. A further investment by the Government is necessary to ensure the educational needs of students can be met.

"Research carried out for education ministers found that public schools nationwide require in the order of \$1.4 billion per annum to implement proven programs aimed at lifting retention rates to 90 per cent."

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