



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Bonus Schemes Wrong For Education

The Australian Education Union said today a long term plan for lifting results and improving equity in education was required, not a couple of corporate-style bonus schemes.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said the education plan released by Labor today fell well short of a revolution.

“What we need is a Government committed to a long term plan for education that has at its centre a funding system that properly resources all our schools to meet the needs of students,” he said.

“We need to tackle the real problems of teacher shortages and under-resourcing that sees more than seven out of ten public schools without the resources necessary to deliver the programs their students need.

“Instead we have a Labor Government committed to maintaining the Howard Government’s inequitable and unsustainable school funding system until 2014.

“Having put off any decision on the funding system, Labor instead has proposed a couple of bonus schemes for teachers and schools.

“The idea that a one-off bonus for a limited number of schools from 2013 will make a real difference is misguided at best.

“Schools cannot engage in long term planning and programming on the basis of bonuses. We need a funding system that properly resources our schools to meet the needs of all students and lift achievement levels.

“The teacher pay bonus scheme is bad policy and will do nothing to address teacher shortages which affect more than 25 per cent of schools. This is nothing more than a revamped bonus pay scheme like the one proposed by the Howard government. Labor opposed such a scheme whilst in Opposition.

“What we need is a better career structure and a professional pay scheme that further rewards accomplished teachers who are assessed against national teaching standards.

“The fact is, Labor is proposing to invest more on school chaplains than in the teaching workforce.”

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