

# AEU-NT 2009 Conference Report

May 2 - 3 Alice Springs

*Glynis Winslade - Palmerston and Rural Region Councillor AEU-NT*

The conference was addressed by the AEU Federal President - Angelo Gavrielatos. Angelo is an inspiring speaker who spoke passionately about NAP testing in Australia. He believes national testing narrows the curriculum and leads to a “drill and kill” mentality often leading to teaching to the test. He asked can national testing be truly comparable when there is no national testing and children around Australia start school at different ages. The government wants to release raw NAPLAN results that will create a “League of schools” ranked from best to worst. Wouldn't it be more constructive to look at ways of improving education outcomes for low scoring schools? In the UK after 19 years of NAP the situation is so bad that teachers have put the government on notice that they may refuse to apply future tests. Angelo also spoke about the inequity between funding for public and private schools and the inefficiency of staffing schools on attendance rather than enrolment.

The conference in Alice Spring was fun, informative and interesting. Many issues were discussed and supported. These included:

- A review of the last UCA
- Behaviour management
- Remote housing
- ICT in schools
- Conditions for new educators
- Workloads
- School support officers
- Staffing

The annual conference is your opportunity to have a say on important issues and network with colleagues from around the Territory. Next years conference will be held in Darwin and I urge you to consider attending.

**Note: The minutes of AEU-NT 2009 Conference are available via the AEU NT website [www.aeunt.org.au](http://www.aeunt.org.au) Members Resources section**