



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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Special Education Budget Boost Welcomed

The Australian Education Union today welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will spend an extra \$200 million on the education of students with disabilities.

AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said the investment was a significant first step in better meeting the needs of these students.

"There is no doubt special education has been one of the most neglected areas of education," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"The AEU has been campaigning for over two years for additional resources in this area.

"The number of students with disabilities in public schools increased by 40 per cent between 2001 and 2009.

"Overall, public schools educate 80 per cent of students with disabilities, including students with the most severe disabilities. We anticipate and expect the distribution of funding would reflect that.

"It is also important to recognise that while this funding is a significant down-payment in a much neglected area, more resources will be required following the completion of the current review of schools funding if we are to improve the learning opportunities and outcomes of all students with disability."

"Schools require ongoing targeted funding to address the needs of students with disabilities through improved student/teacher ratios, greater funded access to appropriate professional development and the provision of specialist learning support teachers and professional support staff."

Mr Gavrielatos said the new package followed a positive process of consultation with unions, principal representatives, disability organisations and community groups.

"Consultation with the profession is vital for good outcomes," he said.

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