



Issue 1, March 2011

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW INTO SCHOOL FUNDING

Last year, the federal government commenced the *Review of Funding for Schooling* with a recently released Emerging Issues Paper. Formal submissions are required by **Thursday 31 March 2011**. Our union will be active in making a formal response and members are also encouraged to be involved.

The IEUA believes that the School Funding Review provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to get a fair share of government funding to ensure both a quality education for students and appropriate industrial conditions for staff in non-government schools.

Currently all schools, government and non-government, are funded by both federal and state and territory governments in addition to fees and privately generated funds.

Figures released by the Australian Productivity Commission identify that government funding for each student in non-government schools has declined, once state government funding is taken into account.

Non-government school enrolments have steadily increased over the last 40 years, with now close to 50 percent of all Australian students attending a non-government school in their lifetime. The current funding arrangements for non-government schools are under pressure due to the emerging demands of contemporary schooling.

The School Funding Review will have significant implications for schools in the Non-Government sector. As such, the IEUA Federal Executive at its meeting in November 2010, committed to a campaign across all branches in 2011. As part of the first stage of this campaign, IEUA members are encouraged to write a submission about diverse nature of their school and particular funding needs of their students.

The School Funding Review provides members with an opportunity to educate the Review Panel about the funding needs of their schools. All Branches are actively encouraging members to write submissions informing the Review Panel on the diverse nature of their school and particular funding needs of their students.

The second phase of the campaign will involve IEUA member representations to all Federal Members of Parliament and Senators.

Government funding to schools must ensure that there are opportunities for all Australian families to access the high quality and diverse non-government school system. Resources are available at www.ieu.org.au/331.html

NATIONAL OFFICERS' SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Ensuring opportunities for all Australian families to access high quality and diverse non-government education

The IEUA National Officers' Seminar will be held on 24th March 2011 at Parliament House, Canberra and will provide opportunities for debate and discussions on the diverse and emerging funding needs of the non-government school sector. The opening address will be provided by Minister Peter Garrett, AM.MP. Federal Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth. The seminar will also contain three discussion panels:

- Responses to School Funding Emerging Issues Paper by Employing Authorities within Non-Government sector (Bill Daniels, Independent Schools Council Australia; Tim Smith; National Catholic Education Commission, Dr Laurie Scandrett Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation;
- Special Interest Funding Needs (Fiona Forbes, President Special Education Principals Assoc; Norm Hart President Aust Primary Principals Assoc; Ken Wyatt AM.MP); and
- Academic Perspective (Jack Keeting Uni Mel, Ian Dalton, Australian Parents Council, John Halsey Flinders Uni).

The National Officers' Workshop will follow the next day for Branch Officers to identify strategies for ongoing campaigning.

EDUCATION NEWS

My School Website 2

The revised MySchool Website was launched on Friday 4 March 2011. This new version of the website now reveals the funding that a school receives to deliver education to its students, including school capital and recurrent income from the Commonwealth Government, the State Government, school fees and other contributions. The website continues to outline the changes in student performance over time based on the NAPLAN results.

The Federal Government has also indicated that they will seek further advice on how school assets – for all schools, such as financial assets like trust accounts, term deposits or investment portfolios as well as physical assets could be presented as the website evolves.

National Professional Standards for Teachers

The National Professional Standards for Teachers were released on 9 February 2011 by the MCEECDYA. The Standards attempt to describe the professional knowledge, practice and engagement expected of teachers throughout their career pathway from graduate through to lead teacher. The Standards attempt to outline the knowledge and skills required of teachers at each level and aimed at being a tool for teachers' professional development.

However, the IEUA believes that there still remain fundamental, structural issues with the Standards and that the matrix approach has failed to take into account a number of issues.

Overall, the IEUA has long supported national teacher standards and our members have been actively engaged in the developmental process. The real challenge will be whether governments will be prepared to adequately fund genuine recognition, through professional pay and paid professional development.

Review of Disability Standards for Education 2005

The Federal Government has commenced a review into the Disability Standards for Education and submissions are required by 21 April 2010.

The Disability Standards came into effect in August 2005 and were designed at the time to clarify the rights of students with disability to access and participate in education and training, and give education providers more guidance on how they can meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

At the time, the IEUA created education material on the Standards. This material can be located at www.ieu.org.au/DDA.pdf

It is now five years since the Standards came into effect and a review is necessary. The IEUA is providing commentary on how the Standards have worked, whether they have achieved their objectives and what amendments are necessary, through a range of consultation meetings across the country and through the provision of a formal submission.

Fundamental to the successful implementation of the Standards is a Government funding framework which appropriately meets the needs of students with special needs and all students within the school.

Further information regarding the consultation process and submissions can be found on the DEEWR website at www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/Pages/reviewdisabilitystandardsforeducation.aspx

BRANCH NEWS

IEU SA

2011 Representative Conference

On 28 February 2011 representatives attended the 2011 Conference to prepare for the challenges of the year ahead. Emphasis at the Conference was placed on the Federal Government Funding Review and in particular the funding needs of students with special needs and disabilities. IEUSA members will commence campaigning to ensure that appropriate federal funding will provide opportunities for all Australian families to access the high quality and diverse non-government school system.

IEUA-QNT

Supporting Flood Affected School Communities

The destruction and extensive devastation caused by flooding throughout Queensland communities and the recent wide-spread damage caused by Cyclone Yasi has affected many QNT members and a number of non-government schools and kindergartens. IEUA QNT members have dug deep to support those affected by these disasters by holding donation days around the theme of "Five for the Flood". Chapters have held morning teas and taken donations of \$5 from each employee to raise funds to help provide the necessary resources people need to rebuild and continue their daily lives.

NSW/ACT IEU

Teachers are Teachers Campaign – Early Childhood Teachers NSW

Early Childhood teachers in NSW continue their fight for pay equity in 2011.

Early childhood teachers working in community based preschools and long day care centres earn up to 20% less than teachers working in state government preschools and independent and Catholic primary schools. A full time early childhood teacher can earn \$14,000 less per annum than other teachers.

The campaign is focused on the lead up to the State Election in March and is aimed at gaining promises from the NSW State Government and the NSW Opposition to increase funding for early childhood services across NSW to enable services to increase their teacher's salaries.

The campaign will include rallies, a postcard and email campaign bombardment of both parties, as well as visits to all sitting members and State election candidates.

A Blue Action Day for Teachers are Teachers will be held on **Wednesday, 23 March 2011**. More information can be found at teachersareteachers.org.au/

VIEU

Beginning Teachers' Conference – First Class

First Class Conference was held on 4 March 2011 for VIEU members within their early teaching career. Various workshops on ICT, Engagement and Learning strategies, Classroom Management and Activities for Primary Classrooms were provided.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Women and Equity News

Tuesday, 8 March marked the 100 year centenary of International Women's Day.

International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1911. But it wasn't until, 25 March 1928, that Australian women first marked International Women's Day by rallying in Sydney to demand improvements to women's social, political and working rights. Every year since, women across the world have recognised the achievements of women and their contribution to society on 8 March.

On this day, IEUA members celebrated the progress that has been made in the last century and recognised those areas of women's lives where more can be done.

In particular, a number of Branches organised activities to celebrate International Women's Day.

In NSW, NSW/ACT IEU joined other NSW Unions to celebrate International Women's Day at the annual rally at Sydney Town Hall on 12 March 2011.

In Victoria, VIEU conducted a dinner on 10 March 2011 to celebrate 100 years of women's activism. The flyer for this dinner can be found at www.vieu.org.au/iwd_2011_flyer.pdf

IEUA-QNT encouraged QLD and NT members to nominate an outstanding woman activist in their workplace for their "100 Years, 100 Women" Honours List. More information can be found at www.qieu.asn.au/iwd

Council of Pacific Education

The UNICEF/COPE/EI Roundtable Conference was conducted on 6-9 December 2010 followed by the biennial council. The theme of the Conference was Child Protection and Teachers Code of Ethics, and the particular focus was the recognition of the EI Professional Ethics Code and the further development of a Code of Ethics for the Pacific Region.

To assist with the development of a regional Code of Ethics and the further refinement of country codes of Teacher ethics, UNICEF provided significant funding towards the Roundtable Conference and ongoing union projects arising from the Conference.

Representatives from the IEUA branches provided a substantial role in assisting, facilitating and synthesising workshop discussions.

This gathering also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of COPE. The Cultural Night celebrated the achievements of the affiliates and recognised longstanding activists. The IEUA was recognised for its longstanding commitment to COPE.

The IEUA celebrated the 25th Anniversary through the presentation to the COPE Council of the "Women's Ceremony" Indigenous painting.

On the Move to Equality -The first EI Global Women's Conference

Education International (EI) convened its first World Women's Conference, *On the Move for Equality*, from 20 to 23 January 2011, at the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand and representatives from IEU NSW/ACT, VIEU, IEU SA and IEUA QNT and the federal office attended. In addition, the IEUA-QNT branch sponsored Alieta Langilangi from FITA – Tonga.

The Conference was an interactive and participatory discussion forum around three main themes on the equality agenda. The conference aimed to inform, stimulate and move forward in a significant way the collective means of achieving gender equality, particularly in and through unions, in education and society.

Importantly, the Conference provided the space and the opportunity for participants to share, analyse and contribute to a forum, the outcomes of which form EI's work on gender justice in the years to come and provide a basis for discussion at EI's 6th World

Further information on the EI conference is located at www.ei-ie.org/women2011/en/