



Queensland Independent Education Union **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 23 January 2007

QIEU welcomes ALP education commitment

The Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) has today welcomed the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) commitment to ensure adequate investment in all levels of education.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said such a commitment would be vital in ensuring that not only Australian students reach their full potential but also Australia's future ability to compete globally.

"For over a decade Australian education has suffered chronic under funding at the hands of the Howard government and has often been used as the basis of political opportunism," Mr Burke said.

"The OECD comparison figures clearly show that Australia has fallen behind other developed nations in its investment in education and that we are unlikely, under current education funding arrangements, to be able to compete with other developed countries and the emerging powerhouse economies in Asia," Mr Burke said.

Mr Burke said the ALP's commitment to ensuring adequate resources were given to the early childhood education sector especially, showed the Party's understanding and value of the fundamental role such education plays in the development of our children and in the future prosperity of the country.

"The value and importance of early childhood education has been demonstrated through extensive research but has been virtually ignored as an area of great significance by the Howard government," Mr Burke said.

Mr Burke said QIEU members looked forward to further dialogue with the ALP, through the federal branch of the Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA), to ensure the decline in education investment by the current federal government can be reversed through coherent and considered public policy.

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents over 14,000 non-government education sector employees including teachers, principals, school support staff, grounds and maintenance staff, early childhood education staff and employees in business, international and English language colleges."