



New South Wales Teachers Federation
a branch of the Australian Education Union
AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697



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NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon

NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION MEDIA RELEASE

BUDGET SPENDING ON EDUCATION DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.

21 June 2016

The NSW Teachers Federation is disappointed that more of the State's Budget surplus has not been earmarked for addressing the critical issues facing education.

Teachers Federation Deputy President Gary Zadkovich said NSW was facing a projected 23 per cent growth in student numbers over the next 15 years and this Budget did not go far enough to address that growth.

“With this kind of growth we need to see a massive investment in public school infrastructure and while the Budget goes some way towards that, it's nowhere near enough,” Mr Zadkovich said.

Mr Zadkovich said teachers have also had their salaries held down by the Baird Government's 2.5 per cent cap on public sector salaries and now the Budget was in surplus that policy on pay increases should be removed.

“If we are to attract and retain the teachers needed to staff new schools and cope with the growth in the size of the public education system, the Government must review its wages policy,” Mr Zadkovich said.



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The NSW Teachers Federation has been campaigning to lift the standard of school maintenance but the allocation in this Budget falls short of what is needed.

“The Budget allocation for maintenance of \$330 million over two years falls well short of the estimated maintenance backlog of \$732 million identified in 2015 by the Auditor-General.”

“While the allocation of nearly \$1 billion over four years for capital works in this Budget is a step in the right direction, the Department of Education has estimated that it would take \$8.25 billion over 15 years to meet the projected costs of buildings and land to deal with the growth in demand.”

Mr Zadkovich said TAFE had been neglected in the Budget with TAFE colleges and courses closing down as Vocational Education and Training is being progressively handed over to private providers.

“It’s a shame that the Budget surplus has not been used to lift investment in our TAFE system after governments have systematically reduced investment in TAFE colleges over many years,” he said.

“TAFE courses have been cut, student fees increased and teacher positions slashed as a result of the NSW government’s discredited Smart and Skilled privatisation policy.”

The NSW Teachers Federation and the Australian Education Union have also been campaigning for decades for increased recurrent funding for public schools.

“By fully-funding the Gonski needs-based model, the Baird Government has put the Turnbull Government to shame. While the NSW Government has recognised our schools need this additional investment, their Federal Coalition counterparts have turned their back on students.” he said.

“It is appalling that the Turnbull Government is refusing to provide the funding to lift all schools to the national resource standard and provide additional funding to meet all students’ needs.”

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