UNION STATEMENT MISLEADS ON SCHOOL FUNDING

An Australian Education Union claim in support of a union survey of government schools in the Federal electorate of Kingston is misleading.

The Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia, Garry Le Duff, said the AEU compares Federal funding to government schools to the Federal funding of non-government schools in Kingston.

"The full story and the real story is that public schools receive both Commonwealth and State Government funds," said Mr Le Duff.

"What the union doesn’t want to tell you is that 94 percent of State Government school funding goes to government schools”.

"On average, Australian governments (Federal and State) spend $10,756 a year for each student at a South Australian public school. That compares with the average allocation of $5786 for each student at a non-government school. [See Productivity Commission graph on next page]

In addition over 85% of the cost of building projects for Independent schools is met by parents. This is complemented by funds from the Commonwealth and zero dollars from the State government.

Mr Le Duff said the union’s real agenda was to stifle choice in education.
"We support calls for increased public education funding for all students," said Mr Le Duff.

"However we will criticise a union that continually and repeatedly stoops to misleading comparisons with the non-government school sector."

Contact: Garry Le Duff, Tel: 8179 1402(W), 8339 2106(A/H) or 0419 806 419