UNION MISLEADS AGAIN ON SCHOOL FUNDING

A student at a public school is allocated at least twice the level of government funding of a student at an Independent school.

The Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia, Garry Le Duff, said claims on Cruise radio this morning by the Australian Education Union about Federal funding to Independent school students mislead listeners.

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

"What the union is not saying is that 94 percent of State Government funding goes to government schools.

"The latest data from the Productivity Commission tells us that Australian governments (Federal and State) spend $11,660 a year for each student at a South Australian public school. That compares to $5540 for each student at a non-government school. [Graph next page]

"The truth is that a student at a public school is allocated at least twice the level of public funding of a student at an Independent school."

"We do not criticise calls for increased education funding for all students," said Mr Le Duff.

"We do criticise a union that stoops to misleading comparisons with the Independent school sector."

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State and Australian Government Recurrent Expenditure per South Australian Government and Non-Government Student 2005-06