



Media Release

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Educators want real education policy commitments, not political slogans

The Australian College of Educators (ACE) believes that this election is a critical one for education. Educators across all sectors will be looking for commitments that go beyond slogans and the fever of the electoral process.

“If parties seeking government are genuinely committed to evidence-based policy and to building a world-class education system, then the supply and quality of teaching must be the centerpiece of their policies,” Lyndsay Connors, National President of ACE said.

“Without sufficient, highly effective teachers across all sectors of education and training, most other government initiatives will come to nought.”

“Educators come in all political shapes and sizes but teaching is very much a values driven profession. They want, above all, to make a difference in the lives of their students. What they require from government is the right policy and funding frameworks that will support them to achieve this goal.

“They will want to be reassured that the principles that shape party commitments are those that are needed to maintain and advance high overall standards of education and training and to sustain equality of access to learning for all Australians,” Ms Connors said.

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There is a need for policies across all sectors and levels that entail commitment to the following action:

- Ensuring that all young children, young people and adults have access to high quality education and training and that they have equal opportunity to learn and to achieve their personal best
- Building consensus about the purposes of education and training and a rational and explicit link between those purposes and funding frameworks.
- Overcoming rigid divides between technical and academic learning pathways that fail to meet individual or workforce needs.
- Recognising the importance of integrated servicing and partnering with community, family and social services, especially in the early years and in high need communities.

Priority should be given to:

- Planned and sustained public investment in the professional capacity, the professionalism and the status of teachers.
- Providing an adequate supply of high quality teachers and equality of access to skilled and experienced teachers across all education and training sectors, giving priority to strategies for ensuring highly effective teachers for the highest need communities.
- Ensuring that policy development is informed by rigorous analysis and discussion by independent bodies that include representation of the broad views of educators.
- Developing high quality accountability frameworks with educational integrity.

Please [click here](#) for a full policy statement from the Australian College of Educators.

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