



The [Independent Education Union of Australia](#), representing over 75,000 members in non-government education, including early childhood education, faith based and community based schools, and post-secondary private education, calls upon all federal political parties to commit to the following matters ahead of the next federal election.

The Ask

- ❑ School funding model funded for 2018–19 and onwards
- ❑ Commitment to fund and index need as identified by Students With Disabilities research project (learning adjustment definitions)
- ❑ Requirement on all state governments to meet funding co-commitment levels as identified in School Review Report
- ❑ AITSL - representation of both IEUA and AEU on AITSL board and AITSL committees
- ❑ Access to high quality, affordable continuing education
- ❑ Right of union to apply for multi-enterprise bargaining
- ❑ Lawful industrial action in multi-enterprise negotiations
- ❑ Maintenance of current paid parental leave provisions
- ❑ Right to return to part time work after parental leave
- ❑ Paid domestic/family violence leave
- ❑ Prioritise indigenous health, education and well being
- ❑ Appropriate and adequate funding to ECEC, and
- ❑ Asylum seeker fair go

The Background

The current **school funding** model introduced by the previous Federal Government and agreed by most state government and all non-government employers, was based on a commitment to introduce improved funding to meet 95% of the Student Resource Standard. Parties should commit to fund the model fully for 2018-19. Any other 'indexation' arrangements that would undermine the commitments made in 2013 are rejected.

The **Students with Disability** (SWD) loading introduced under the current funding model was clearly understood to be an interim arrangement. Work has been underway for a number of years to both establish (a now agreed) definition for the purpose of SWD funding and to ascertain the resources needed to meet the learning adjustment required. Parties must commit to fully fund, through the loading, the actual cost of learning adjustments for all SWD as revealed from the current data collection activity.

The Review into School Funding clearly established major discrepancies in the commitments to school education funding by the different **states and territories**. There has been no requirement under the current National Education Agreements to have states and territories meet an appropriate minimum benchmark for the co-commitment to school funding and consequently increases in federal contributions are at the risk of being 'discounted' at the state/territory level. All parties should require a minimum co-commitment by states and territories to appropriately address the deficiencies identified in the Funding Review.

The **AITSL Board** was never properly constructed by the previous or current federal governments and recent decisions to further politicise the company have seen all teacher union representation removed from the organisation. Consequently AITSL is not only unrepresentative but does not have the confidence of the teaching profession. Parties must commit to ensuring that both the IEUA and AEU are represented on the Board and on all relevant committees.

To ensure our members' students and members' families have access to high quality and affordable **continuing education**, parties should commit to increase government higher education funding to at least 1% of GDP, consistent with the average public commitment of other OECD countries, stop fee deregulation and prevent the redirection of public funds to private for profit providers. Appropriate levels of regulation and oversight of continuing education courses must be undertaken by government.

Current industrial legislation is weighed against workers and their unions by only allowing for employers to

seek multi-enterprise bargaining arrangements. This is particularly disadvantageous to the IEU given the nature, structure and indeed funding of the school education sector. Parties should support amendment of legislation to ensure that unions are able to apply for and be granted **multi-employer declarations**.

The Federal Paid Parental Leave Scheme was never considered as a replacement for employer paid parental leave but rather a basic scheme for parents that would be complemented by employer paid parental leave schemes. The Federal Paid Parental Leave Scheme is a vital safety net for IEU members. The Federal Paid Parental Leave Scheme supplements the negotiated employer paid leave arrangements and allows women to access the extra time necessary for proper bonding and breastfeeding. This scheme must be preserved.

Workers should have access to redress through the Fair Work Commission to any adverse or unreasonable refusal by an employer for the worker to **return to work on a part-time basis** following parental leave. Employer refusal of s65 requests for flexible working arrangements should constitute a breach of the Act and be subject to a penalty.

All parties should unequivocally commit to a statutory entitlement as a workplace right to allow for a minimum of 10 days **paid leave for victims (and victim's families) of domestic/family violence**.

Chronic disease accounts for 81 percent of the gap in death rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Improvements in life expectancy can only be achieved when real progress in resourcing education, employment, housing, income, safety and the prevention of health risk behaviours is achieved. All parties should commit to prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island health, education and well-being in their election policy platforms and fund the Implementation Plan for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (2013-2023) until it expires in 2023.

Funding for **Early Childhood Education and Care** requires an unequivocal commitment to stability and certainty of funding; continuation of universal access; continuation of the National Quality Framework (NQF) and commitment of additional funding for professional salaries.

All parties should commit to: onshore processing of **asylum seekers**, community release pending asylum refugee claim decision following appropriate health/security checks, closure of off-shore facilities, recommitment to regional strategies, and further increases in immigration numbers.