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[Media Hub](#)

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[Home](#) > [Media](#) [Media Releases](#) > AEU's dishonest campaign on school funding

AEU's dishonest campaign on school funding

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The Australian Education Union (AEU) has this week been caught out distributing blatantly dishonest claims on school funding in South Australia.

At primary schools in South Australia, the AEU has distributed misleading campaign material entitled 'A message from local principals and teachers'. This 'message' is actually from the AEU and is authorised by its Federal Secretary in Melbourne.

The AEU's dishonest 'message' claims that the Coalition would deliver only one third of total funding agreed to in the South Australian school funding agreement.

This is false.

Tony Abbott and the Coalition have confirmed that they will commit the same amount of federal school funding as the Government over the forward estimates. Every single school in Australia will receive, dollar for dollar, the same federal funding over the next four years whether there is a Liberal or Labor Government after September 7.

Kevin Rudd and the AEU have abandoned any notion of 'A New Way' and instead have nothing to offer Australian parents other than the same old Labor ways of dishonest scare campaigns.

The AEU's latest scare is a dishonest campaign tactic that is being used to hide Kevin Rudd's appalling record of broken promises in education, including:

Childcare Centres

Labor promised to end the double drop-off by building 260 childcare centres, but gave up after building only 38.

Student results

After five years, both international and national testing data shows that student achievement in Australia has either flatlined or declined.

Literacy and numeracy

Labor's \$540 million literacy and numeracy programme failed to improve student outcomes. An independent performance audit of the programme which examined national testing data from 2008 to 2011 concluded the programme did not make a statistically significant improvement in any State.

Cash for 'most improved schools' programme

As part of a deal brokered with regional Independents in order to secure office in 2010, Labor promised that a third of cash bonuses of up to \$70,000 per school set aside for 'school improvement' would be paid to regional schools. Not one school received a cash bonus as promised at the last election before the policy was scrapped, let alone the regional schools.

Teacher bonus programme

Not one teacher has been paid a cash bonus as promised at the last election before the policy was dumped in the Budget.

Teach Next

It was sent to the policy dustbin in the pre-election economic outlook. Yesterday's announcement confirms that the funding has been redirected to Teach for Australia, which the Coalition suggested should have happened in the first place.

International education

Labor has failed to protect one of our most important export sectors. The cumulative loss in education exports has, so far, been \$4.8 billion (to December 2012).

Mr Rudd's fear mongering is just another example of the fakery he has engaged in since the start of the campaign – and he knows it – because during his time as a senior bureaucrat for former Queensland Premier Goss, he closed 46 schools.

21 August 2013

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