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## IEU calls for stronger action on AI in schools and teacher workload as Productivity Commission interim report falls short in key areas

The IEU has made a detailed submission to the Productivity Commission's interim report [Building a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce](#). While the report acknowledges the profound impact of AI in schools and the systemic problem of teacher workloads, much more is needed to guarantee worker protections and a comprehensive plan to reduce workloads.

The interim report contains eight draft recommendations covering aspects of schools and education, post-secondary skills and qualifications and occupational entry requirements.

Drawing on member feedback and real-world experience of teachers and school leaders, the [IEU submission](#) focuses on the two recommendations dealing with schools and student outcomes.

### **Draft Recommendation 1.1: Access to centralised lesson planning materials for teachers**

Previous attempts to provide "off the shelf" teaching resources have often failed due to their rigidity and the simplified nature of generic materials.

Any new centralised lesson planning materials must be adaptable to the full spectrum of classroom needs and diverse student cohorts. Their use must remain subject to teacher autonomy and professional judgement in the classroom.

Employers carry the ultimate responsibility for addressing unsustainable workloads. Centralised teaching resources must be matched with concrete employer action to reduce excessive demands on teachers and school leaders and the provision of adequate release time.

### **Draft Recommendation 1.2: Equitable access to education technology and AI**

The interim report rightly highlights the rapid emergence of edtech and AI in schools. While these tools have the potential to support teaching and student learning, there are countless dangers that need to be mitigated to ensure the safe and ethical roll-out of AI for students and staff.

The proposed use of AI to reduce teacher administration tasks must be based on programs proven in practice, developed in consultation with the profession, and evaluated through [Teacher Workload Impact Assessments](#). The IEU is also calling for [AI Implementation Agreements](#) between employers and staff to safeguard job security, data protection, privacy and skills development.

You can read full details of the [IEU's recommendations to the Productivity Commission here](#).

The IEU also shares the ACTU's concerns with the report's broader sections on skills, qualifications and occupational entry requirements. The report fails to prioritise meaningful solutions to Australia's skills and training challenges and downplays the responsibility of employers to provide ongoing workplace training and staff development.