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## Teachers' safety and inclusive education go hand in hand, while new data shows rising school violence

Education workers are experiencing escalating workplace health risks and the absence of baseline staff wellbeing and safety. The crisis of classroom violence and challenging and complex behaviours are highlighted in the latest [education report](#) by a state government.

Teachers' compensation claims for psychological harm rose 26% since 2023, with a 60% increase in psychological injury claims in the same period. Rising physical injuries left 70% of affected staff unable to return to work within the same 12-month period.

Challenging student behaviours driven by societal and health factors are causing injury and burnout for teachers as well as poor educational outcomes. Numerous inquiries and reviews have confirmed that underachieving students are [disproportionally found in under-resourced schools](#).

The Labor government's commitment to fully fund public schools is essential, but the phased model, running from 2026-2034, means many schools are years away from their full entitlement.

Governments and employers must collaborate with school staff and their union to address the underlying factors affecting employee wellbeing, teacher workloads, and staff-student ratios. Building a resilient workforce requires a [co-ordinated and proactive approach](#).

A new [research report](#) presents convincing evidence that 'full-service school' models can deliver major engagement, wellbeing and academic improvement by putting equity and wellbeing centre stage. International research similarly shows significant social and economic returns. Workload impacts on teachers can be offset by engaging dedicated full-time coordinators and specialists.

Our union supports the AEU's call for the federal government to begin establishing full-service public schools with priority given to the most disadvantaged communities. The IEU also supports implementation of the [school refusal report](#) and additional funding for the [inclusive education transition plan](#).

Workplace wellbeing and truly inclusive education rely on long-term social and economic reforms by governments. These reforms must target community health, [affordable housing](#), family safety, [anti-poverty initiatives](#), and broader measures to address wealth inequality.