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IEU Federal Council sets priorities for next phase of education reform

IEU delegates from across Australia have endorsed a set of priorities to ensure schools are better equipped for the challenges facing students and the education workforce.

Gathering in Melbourne for the annual IEU Federal Council Meeting, representatives from each state and territory identified the areas where coordinated action is needed to strengthen educational outcomes and support IEU members working across a highly diverse school sector.

Federal Council has committed to progressing further reforms that address:

- [Greater accountability and transparency in school funding](#)
- [Managing classroom complexity and challenging student behaviours](#)
- [The impact of climate change on students, staff and school communities](#)

These priorities reflect some of the most significant pressures facing schools. They also build on work undertaken through the IEU's previous reform program, including action on [gendered violence](#), [reproductive health leave](#), [anti-discrimination exemptions](#) and [teacher workload](#).

Greater transparency and accountability in non-government school funding

As governments invest billions of dollars into schools, the community must be confident that funding is reaching the students and programs for which it is intended. In light of current funding [scandals](#) and [corruption investigations](#), the IEU is calling for stronger mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability so that public investment delivers its full educational benefit.

Managing classroom complexity & challenging student behaviours

IEU delegates also highlighted the increasing complexity of classroom environments. Teachers and support staff are responding to a wider range of learning and behavioural needs than ever before. Without appropriate resourcing, specialist support and workforce planning, these challenges risk undermining both student learning and staff wellbeing.

Climate risk mitigation: safeguarding staff, students and quality education

Climate change is a major education and workforce challenge. Extreme heat, severe weather and natural disasters are increasingly affecting schools. Governments and employers must ensure that infrastructure, emergency responses and long-term planning equip schools and communities to meet these threats.

Successful reform requires collaboration between governments, employers, workers and their unions. By addressing these challenges now, Australia can build an education system that is more equitable, more resilient and better prepared for the future.