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MEDIA RELEASE

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Government welcomes report on school funding

The Rudd Government has welcomed a report released today by the Australian Education Union on school funding.

This report highlights the unprecedented investment the Rudd Government is making in Australian schools.

The Rudd Government believes that all schools, government and non government, should be high quality schools.

Every dollar being spent through the Education Revolution is being spent to drive improvement in all schools and ensure disadvantage is not a barrier to a world class education.

This report confirms that significant additional funding being delivered through the Education Revolution is going to schools that need it the most.

The suite of programs being delivered under the Education Revolution includes:

- Digital Education Revolution
- Trades Training Centres in Secondary Schools
- Building the Education Revolution
- Smarter Schools: Improving teacher quality
- Smarter Schools: Literacy and Numeracy
- Smarter Schools: Disadvantaged school communities
- National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program

The Rudd Government's Education Revolution is also delivering a new era of school transparency and a national curriculum for the first time in the nation's history.

To ensure all Australian children are getting the best start in life and commence formal school as happy, confident learners the Rudd Government is also investing heavily in early childhood education.

The Rudd Government took the steps necessary to address a long standing funding anomaly which left primary students attending government schools funded at a lesser rate than secondary school students.

The increase in funding for non government schools recorded in the report reflects the increase in enrolments and indexation.

As State governments remain the predominant funders of government schools, direct comparison with Commonwealth funding for non-government schools is disingenuous.

As promised, an open and transparent review of school funding will occur in the lead up to 2013, when the next four year funding deal is due to commence.

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