



10 February 2010

## ARBITRATION DECISION

The AEU has welcomed the Industrial Relations Commission's resolution of the wages and award component of the Public Education Agreement and says educators remain extremely keen to see real improvements in teaching conditions in a future determination.

AEU Vice President Anne Crawford says teachers are relieved and, on balance, pleased with the pay deal – and that while it's disappointing the entire matter was not resolved today, they will take heart from the fact that the IRC is giving it such thorough consideration.

"We were always confident of achieving a solid wage increase and that has proved to be the case, with 15.75% awarded. When that's compounded over the life of the agreement, combined with the creation of a further pay increment for experienced teachers, it means in real terms a 21.3% increase for the majority of the workforce, top level teachers."

"Teachers on the new step 9 classification will receive at least an extra \$10,000 a year by the time the agreement expires, a significant improvement on the government's offer."

"And although TAFE workers will be disappointed that their sector will be placed under a separate award, they are pleased to receive a classification structure and salary rise better than the government was offering."

"But as we've said from the very beginning, this has always been about more than just wages."

"Of critical concern are those factors which go to the heart of quality schooling for children, including more manageable class sizes to ensure students get the individual attention they deserve, and more manageable workloads for teachers."

"We are particularly concerned about the government's attempt to change the funding formula which would see funds stripped from 1 in 3 schools. These and other matters are yet to be determined by the Commission."

"Overall, we are pleased with what has been delivered so far and will now set about the task of analysing the detail and making this work in our schools. Above all we congratulate our members who have remained united throughout a long and difficult period."

**for further information, please contact:**

**Anne Crawford**

AEU | SA Vice President 0400 897 414