

# Independent Education Union

Unit 11 & 12  
3 - 5 Phipps Close  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

PO Box 177  
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600



Telephone: (02) 6273 3107  
Fax: (02) 6273 3710  
Email: [ieu@ieu.org.au](mailto:ieu@ieu.org.au)

Website: <http://www.ieu.org.au>

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The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
PO Box 6500  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [helen.buckle@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.buckle@aph.gov.au).

Dear Prime Minister

We write to congratulate you on the victory of the Labor Party and your personal victory in the recent election.

The Independent Education Union of Australia (IEU) represents close to 75, 000 teachers, principals, support staff and ancillary staff in non-government education institutions across Australia, including early childhood education, schools and post-secondary colleges.

We acknowledge that a new Labor Federal Government offers to our members the hope of change and opportunity and we look forward to working with your government to ensure equity and fairness in Australian society, particularly on the following matters:

## **Recognition of First Nation People.**

- The IEU strongly supports the Uluru Statement of Heart as the culmination of over two hundred years of debate and activism. As such, we are committed to working with you to ensure that the First Nation people have constitutional rights to a voice in Parliament.

## **Inclusiveness**

- The IEU is strongly committed to ensuring that our members are provided with a workplace free from discrimination and which promotes and protects the right to equality. As such, we will continue to campaign to ensure legislation is amended to provide relevant and appropriate protection against discrimination.
- Equally, for a union which has over 70% membership of women, gender equity is a paramount focus. We welcome your Government's commitment to the introduction of paid domestic and family violence leave into the NES and we look forward to working with you on all other gender equity principles.

## **Social Justice**

- The IEU is on record calling attention to those fleeing conflict or persecution and standing for all people seeking asylum to be entitled to the full range of human rights and protections. We look forward to working with your Government to ensure a more

humane asylum seeker policy reflective of our obligations under international conventions.

We welcome your announcement to return the Murugappan family to their Biloea home and community.

### **Industrial relations**

- For too long IEU members have struggled under a broken bargaining system, insecure work and wage disparity. These issues have been particularly apparent for, but not exclusive to, early childhood education professionals.

We look forward to working with you to ensure a return to fair and balanced workplace laws.

### **Education Profession**

- Finally, but most significantly, as an Education Union our members are the voice of the education profession. This voice has been ignored and sidelined under the Coalition Government.

Education policy over the past years have been influenced by actors external to the system, and life of schooling and education. This has resulted in education policies being developed that do not support nor reflect the realities of the profession.

As the voice of the education profession, IEU will continue to campaign to ensure that this voice is central to policy development and that we have a role on various authority bodies and look forward to working with you on this matter.

The IEU is ready to be part of actions that your Government has foreshadowed to bring hope and opportunity back.

We are look forward to meeting with you, and your ministers to make a difference.

Yours sincerely



**CHRISTINE COOPER**  
**Acting Federal Secretary**