

## Federation condemns Turnbull Government's failure on Marriage Equality

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The NSW Teachers Federation condemns Prime Minister Turnbull and his government for their approach to marriage equality.

Attending the AEU Federal Executive meeting this week, NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron discussed his concerns about the waste of money and resources, as well as the toxic debate that would ensue, as a result of the postal vote.

"The Prime Minister has shown an appalling lack of leadership on this issue," Mr Mulheron said. "The result is a \$122 million sham opinion poll, money that could have been used to employ an additional two thousand teachers in our public schools."

The NSW Teachers Federation, along with other Branches and Associated Bodies of the AEU, agreed that continuing to pursue a postal vote prior to a parliamentary vote was disgraceful and contradicted the proper role of government; to respect, support and protect citizens.

"The failure of Malcolm Turnbull to provide leadership on this issue will mean that LGBTIQ citizens, including many young people still at school, will have to endure the inevitable toxic atmosphere in the lead up to the survey," Mr Mulheron said.

"The Federation has serious concerns regarding the safety and well-being of staff and students in our schools because of the negative and hurtful commentary that this survey will generate. We will be taking up this matter with the Department to ensure that our schools are safe and supportive environments for all."

The NSW Teachers Federation will continue to support the LGBTIQ community and campaign for marriage equality with other unions and progressive organisations.

