

# David Koch

## Member for Western Victoria Opposition Whip (Council)

46 Brown Street, Hamilton 3300  
Tel: 5572 3377 · Fax: 5572 4945

### MEDIA RELEASE

*Wednesday, 16 April 2008*

## **Coalition proposal a win for Western Victoria teachers**

Under a new proposal unveiled by the Leader of the Liberal Nationals Coalition Ted Baillieu, Western Victorian teachers will become the highest-paid in Australia.

Member for Western Victoria, David Koch, said the Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition proposal will be an enormous victory for teachers across the region.

The Coalition plans to spend \$396 million over three years on boosting the pay of Victorian teachers, currently the lowest-paid in Australia.

David Koch said the Coalition's proposal is a significant boost for teachers and education in Western Victoria, attracting the best and the brightest to all government schools.

"Under the Brumby Government, our teachers have endured the worst pay in Australia," David Koch said.

"The Coalition's proposal would remedy the Labor Government's inaction and neglect in the education sector for Western Victorian students.

"Our students deserve better, and education can never be our number one priority if those who teach them struggle on poor salaries."

The Coalition would ensure that government-employed teachers would be elevated in the current round of Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiations to be the highest paid teachers for their level in Australia, bringing all Victorian kindergarten, primary, and secondary teachers to national parity levels and above.

If the government maintains its wages policy at 3.25 per cent, this commitment would require an additional Budget allocation of \$396 million over three years (between 2008/09 and 2010/11).

John Brumby claims education is his number one priority, yet his neglect and inaction has resulted in:

- The lowest student literacy and numeracy rates of any mainland state (Source: OECD: Program for International Student Assessment);
- The lowest funding per student for government schools (Source: Productivity Commission Report on Government Services, 2008);
- A school maintenance backlog which has doubled from \$130 million to \$268 million at last audit, with many schools not being fixed until 2016; and
- Parents losing confidence in Victorian government schools (in the last two years government school enrolments have fallen by 752 students while enrolments in the non-government school system increased by 8,658 students over the same period).

“State teachers have been trying to negotiate a salary increase with the Brumby Government for 12 months, yet the Premier arrogantly refuses to meet with or speak with them,” David Koch said.

“Parents, students and teachers seek better education outcomes than the ones John Brumby is offering. Attracting and retaining the best and the brightest to teach at our schools is a sound investment in Victoria’s classrooms.”

### Salary Comparisons March 1, 2008

State or Territory	Beginning Teacher (4 year trained)	Top of Classroom Scale
NSW	\$50,522 (first)	\$75,352 (first)
ACT	\$50,365 (second)	\$71,767 (third)
Western Australia	\$50,025 (third)	\$72,844 (second)
Northern Territory	\$49,944 (fourth)	\$70,047 (fifth)
South Australia	\$49,605 (fifth)	\$68,422 (seventh)
Tasmania	\$47,801 (sixth)	\$70,296 (fourth)
Queensland	\$46,950 (seventh)	\$69,225 (sixth)
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>\$46,127 (lowest)</b>	<b>\$65,414 (lowest)</b>

Source: Australian Education Union

Media inquiries: David Koch 0418 723 031