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Media alert

Attention: Radio and TV producers

School vouchers would have negative impact on education outcomes - New report

A report released today by the Australia Institute on the likely impact of proposed school voucher schemes has found that they could adversely affect education outcomes, and would be expensive to implement.

Findings include:

- 1 Under proposed voucher schemes it is likely that annual government expenditure on schools would have to increase by between \$4 billion and \$11 billion.**
- 2 Proposed voucher schemes are likely to increase the gap in resources between government and non-government schools, and between wealthy and poor private schools.**
- 3 Proposed voucher schemes are unlikely to result in an improvement in average education outcomes and there is a significant risk they could lead to greater educational inequality.**
- 4 Voucher schemes could exacerbate segregation on the basis of academic ability, socio-economic status, race and religion, which could have an adverse affect on social capital and social cohesion.**

A summary of the report can be found under 'What's New' on the Institute's website www.tai.org.au.

For comments, please contact:

Andrew Macintosh, Deputy Director (02) 6125 1273 (bh) or 0403 804 540.

www.tai.org.au