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CATHOLIC COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

VALUING THE PROFESSION

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CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 6

Employers Take First Step to Professional Rates of Pay Employer Commitment to Parity Missing

Dear Colleagues

Catholic employers are to be commended for taking a first step towards the achievement of professional rates of pay with their agreement to make an interim payment of 4.5% to all employees from 1 May or 4 May 2009, depending on the pay cycle.

However, it is only a first step and notably the announcement from employing authorities makes no commitment to parity of outcomes with the public sector and in particular meeting the benchmark rates of pay achieved interstate.

Background

Employees in Catholic schools have endorsed a claim for professional rates of pay.

Employee representatives tabled a claim for an interim wage increase at the last SBU meetings on 7 and 8 April 2009.

Importantly the employee claim made a further key claim for a commitment from employing authorities for comparability of outcomes with public sector schools.

This commitment has not been provided to employees in the employer announcement.

The claim of 4.5% or \$34 per week whichever is the greater is consistent with the core public sector offer. The Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) claim clearly goes beyond this basic public sector position and seeks wage outcomes consistent with interstate benchmarks.

Employer representatives have now, ahead of the SBU meetings scheduled for next week, advised employees that they have agreed to this claim.

While the employer announcement is welcomed it fails to confirm a commitment to public sector outcomes.

Next steps

A further round of SBU meetings is scheduled for 5 and 6 May 2009.

Employee representatives will now pursue the commitment to public sector outcomes at the negotiations.

This is a vital commitment from Catholic employers.

Chapters will be informed of the outcomes of the forthcoming SBU meetings and appropriate action considered in light of the employer response.

Achieving professional rates of pay is vital. Our support of our colleagues in the public sector is even more vital if we are to achieve professional rates of pay consistent with interstate benchmarks.

As the QIU members commence their negotiations in the new week, QIEU member support will be an important part of their campaign.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. P. Burke', written in a cursive style.

TERRY BURKE
GENERAL SECRETARY