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Monday, 9 November 2009

ECE-CB09017js

Early Childhood Education



CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 17

Negotiations involving ACSEA One issue remains Member advice necessary

Dear Colleagues

Negotiations have been occurring in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission between your representatives and the Australian Community Services Employers Association (ACSEA).

ACSEA has now committed, subject to DECKAS funding, to match the State Government wages outcome.

One issue remains

The proposed Agreement will have a nominal expiry date of 31 December 2010. (This period, requested by the employers, matches the announced period of DECKAS funding.)

An Agreement continues to operate after its expiry date under current Queensland legislation. Such an Agreement operates until it is either replaced by a new Agreement, or the Commission orders that it be terminated.

However, under the proposed legislation to refer State industrial powers to the federal government, State Awards will terminate after one year. This means that the Early Childhood Education Award would cease to exist after one year.

QIEU has sought that the content of the Early Childhood Education Award, as it currently exists, would form part of the new Agreement.

ACSEA has proposed that your current Award only form part of your Agreement up till 31 December 2010. The practical effect of the ACSEA proposal would be that your current conditions would be the subject of negotiation for the Agreement which will (probably) apply from January 2011.

This is a significant issue where we believe that the final decision should be made by members.

In identifying that one issue remains, your representatives believe that we have achieved the best position which could be achieved through negotiation in relation to the remainder of the Agreement.

Member views needed

It is important to conclude these negotiations prior to the end of the year.

Your representatives request urgent feedback on the issue identified earlier in this Briefing. Please send your completed feed back sheet to QIEU before close of business on Tuesday 17 November 2009.

Review of DECKAS funding requested

Your representatives have written to the Queensland Government asking that the DECKAS funding be increased to reflect the outcome which has been announced for State teachers. ACSEA has now agreed to support that request.

We will keep members informed on the funding issue.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Spriggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Spriggs
Senior Industrial Officer

