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# QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION



BRISBANE  
346 TURBOT ST  
SPRING HILL Q 4000  
P O BOX 418  
FORTITUDE VALLEY

Phone: 07 3839 7020  
Fax: 07 3839 7021  
Freecall: 1800 177 937  
Email: enquiries@qieu.asn.au  
Internet: www.qieu.asn.au  
ABN: 45 620 218 712

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Wednesday, 31 October 2007

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



### CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 7

## THE FUTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION UNDER THREAT

Dear Colleagues

The review of DECKAS funding is a critical issue for the community kindergarten sector and has far-reaching implications for the future of the sector.

QIEU members have been active in the process of the review by providing substantial evidence and support to QIEU submissions - accurately reflecting the views of the early childhood education sector employees.

Members provided substantial feedback through member surveys, a series of Regional Organising Committee Meetings (ROCS) and a regional teleconference.

Despite this, QIEU members will be denied the opportunity to view and critique the final funding model recommendations which will be made to the State Government by the Allen Consultancy Group.

In other 'developments' ACSEA has now refused to negotiate a replacement collective agreement hiding behind the uncertainty of the DECKAS funding review.

#### **QIEU members denied final review of recommendations**

QIEU was informed at the last meeting of the DECKAS Review Reference Group that the funding model submitted to Cabinet as a result of the review process would be compiled by the Allen Consulting Group with only input from Government officers.

**No further opportunities to comment on the funding model developed by the Consultants prior to that submission being presented to the Government will be provided.**

QIEU members therefore have no assurance that the final model recommended to Government will reflect the interests of the community kindergarten sector which relies on quality funding to ensure quality education is provided within the sector.

This is an outrageous position.

#### **DECKAS funding uncertainty places working conditions at risk**

The recruitment and retention of quality educational professionals is vital for the future of the early childhood sector. Pivotal to this is quality working rights and conditions.

The current collective bargaining agreement for employees within ACSEA affiliated centres contains commitments for the negotiation of reserved matters.

Yet, despite these commitments, ACSEA has now refused to negotiate on these matters, citing the uncertainty surrounding DECKAS funding.

A more responsible and reasonable position for ACSEA to take would be to explore, subject to funding, the parameters of the issues through continued negotiations with QIEU.

ACSEA must also stand up for early childhood education in Queensland and make a more determined representation to the State Government for adequate funding arrangements to ensure quality education is safeguarded.

Instead, ACSEA has taken a “wait and see” approach to this very serious issue which affects QIEU members’ working rights and conditions and ultimately the viability of the sector.

### **Time for QIEU members to take control of their future**

Early childhood education will not survive unless appropriate Government funding is provided to enable the employment of trained (and registered) teachers, supported by skilled assistants.

The sector will not be able to attract and retain staff unless the wages and conditions of employment are comparable to those applying in government and non-governmental schools.

The time has come for QIEU members to send a strong message to the State Government and ACSEA that we will not tolerate sub-standard working rights and conditions or any funding model which will place the future of the sector as a whole at risk.

QIEU members are asked to urgently consider the attached resolutions which:

- **urge ACSEA to honour its commitment to negotiate reserved matters within funding parameters;**
- **call upon ACSEA to take an active role in advocating for the unique nature of community kindergarten education through the retention of appropriate systems of governance and sufficient funding models; and**
- **endorse a member postcard campaign to local state parliamentarians to raise awareness of the level of concern early childhood education members have in regard to the situation and the vital need for quality funding to be maintained in order to ensure the continued provision of quality education for future generations of Queenslanders.**

Resolutions received from QIEU members will be forwarded to ACSEA.

In the upcoming week, correspondence containing a briefing and postcards will be forwarded to your centre. All staff and parents are encouraged to sign the postcard and post to your local state parliamentarian to highlight the level of concern regarding the review of the DECKAS funding.

### **Regional Organising Committee Meetings**

Regional Organising Committee (ROCs) meetings of QIEU members have been scheduled in the next few weeks. A regional teleconference has also been arranged and the details of these meetings are attached.

Given the critical nature of the issues facing early childhood education employees, member attendance at the upcoming meetings is vital in order for you to have your say in protecting the future of quality early childhood education.

**Please ensure at least one person from your Centre attends one of these meetings and attendees should RSVP to the meeting contact person listed.**

The unique nature of community kindergarten education must be retained. This can only be achieved if QIEU members are informed and active in having a say in the future of their sector and I look forward to your continue participation in this critical campaign.

Kind regards



**TERRY BURKE  
GENERAL SECRETARY**



**your rights at work**  
worth fighting and voting for

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CHAPTER FAXBACK

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# THE FUTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION UNDER THREAT

Centre Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION

1 QIEU members at \_\_\_\_\_ call upon ASCEA  
(*inset centre name*)

to promote quality education and quality conditions by honouring the commitment contained within the *Queensland Early Childhood Education Agreement 2006* and to enter into negotiations, mindful of funding parameters, with QIEU on the "reserved matters" for all employees within ACSEA member centres

**CARRIED / NOT CARRIED**

2 QIEU members at \_\_\_\_\_ further call upon ASCEA to  
(*inset centre name*)

take an active role in advocating to the Queensland Government for the retention of a funding model which recognises the unique nature of community kindergarten education and ensures the employment of trained (and registered) teachers and skilled assistants.

**CARRIED / NOT CARRIED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE QIEU OFFICE:  
Fax: 07 3839 7021 or Email: [jrymer@qieu.asn.au](mailto:jrymer@qieu.asn.au)  
BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 9 November 2007**



**yourrightsatwork**  
worth fighting and voting for

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31 October 2007

Chapter Briefing No. 7

# THE FUTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION UNDER THREAT

Centre Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION

3 QIEU members at \_\_\_\_\_ endorse the participation in a  
*(insert centre name)*

campaign to protect the viability and future of the community kindergarten sector including a member postcard campaign to local members of Queensland Parliament to highlight the level of concern that early childhood education members have in regard to the DECKAS funding review and the vital need for a funding model which retains the unique nature of community kindergartens and ensures quality conditions and quality education.

**CARRIED / NOT CARRIED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE QIEU OFFICE:  
Fax: 07 3839 7021 or Email: [jrymer@qieu.asn.au](mailto:jrymer@qieu.asn.au)  
BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 9 November 2007**



# Regional Organising Committee Meetings

## THE FUTURE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION UNDER THREAT

Early childhood education professionals across Queensland are invited to attend ROC meetings across Queensland.

All meetings are scheduled for 3.30pm with a 4.00pm start and QIEU members are asked to ensure that at least one person from your Centre attends a ROC meeting in your area.

**Regional members based outside of South East Queensland are invited to take part in a teleconference on Tuesday, 20 November at 4pm. Regional members are encouraged to contact Jan Rymer prior to the close of business Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November on 1800 177 937 or email [jrymer@qieu.asn.au](mailto:jrymer@qieu.asn.au) to ensure they are contacted for the teleconference.**

The details of the meetings and venues are as follows:

Please RSVP to the relevant contact person listed for the meeting you wish to attend.

Region	Date	Place	Contact Person
<b>Ipswich</b>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Banjios Bar 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Trades Hall Building Ipswich (behind the mall)	Michael Beckett 38397020
<b>Brisbane Inner North</b>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Emily Ford Memorial Kindergarten 26 Rhodes St, Stafford	Sheree Shannon 3857 5508
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Buderim Kindergarten 38 Townsend Rd, Buderim	Wendy Veale 5445 1952
<b>Brisbane South</b>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunnybank Kindergarten 101 Lister Street, Sunnybank	Robyn Lane 3345 1958
<b>St Lucia</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	St Thomas' Riverview Kindergarten 186 Macquarie Street, St Lucia	Suzanne Burdon 3371 1556
<b>Brisbane North</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Pine Rivers Kindergarten 22-30 Harding St, Kallangur	Wendy Anderson 3285 2309
<b>Bayside</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Belmont Tavern, Belmont Road, Carindale	Jan Rymer QIEU 3839 7020
<b>Regional Teleconference</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Teleconference	Jan Rymer 1800 177 937 <a href="mailto:jrymer@qieu.asn.au">jrymer@qieu.asn.au</a>
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Parkwood Tavern, Corner Olsen Avenue and Wintergreen Drive, Parkwood	Jan Rymer QIEU 3839 7020