



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

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St Lucia Kindergarten gives the gift of hope to children in Pakistan this Christmas

St Thomas's Riverview Kindergarten and Preschool in St Lucia has raised over \$600 through its annual mango drive to donate to the Pakistan Floods Children's Appeal.

St Thomas's have run an annual mango drive since 2002 to raise funds for a worthy charity or community appeal.

Kindergarten teacher director, Ms Suzanne Burdon and kindergarten parent committee member, Ms Kate Ochre with her daughter Mieke presented a cheque of over \$600 to the Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEUA-QNT) Branch Assistant Secretary, Roslyn McLennan to contribute to the union's World Teachers' Day fundraising appeal.

As part of the World Teachers' Day celebration at the end of October, the IEUA-QNT encouraged members to donate a gold coin towards the Pakistan Floods Children's Appeal to recognise teacher colleagues who continue to educate in the face of great hardship following the floods disaster in Pakistan.

Ms Burdon said she felt it was appropriate this Christmas to donate to an appeal where the funds would go towards supporting children and education in Pakistan following the country's ongoing struggle to rebuild its schools and communities.

St Thomas's parent committee member, Ms Ochre said the donation was appropriate to educate children on the spirit of Christmas and to give hope to children in Pakistan as the recovery from the devastating floods continues.

"As Christmas fast approaches, the committee members thought it would be important to help kids less fortunate than our own," Ms Ochre said.

"Our humble contribution through our mango drive is a practical way to make our children aware of the spirit of Christmas, such as demonstrating kindness and generosity as we aid other children who cannot enjoy a Christmas season like ours here in Australia," she said.

Previous proceeds raised from St Thomas's Riverview Kindergarten and Preschool's annual mango drive have been donated to various community appeals and charities, including the Make a Wish Foundation, the Victorian Bushfires, and other appeals such as a relief fund for a kindergarten damaged by Cyclone Larry in Townsville.

Ms McLennan said St Thomas's Riverview Kindergarten and Preschool's donation serves as a timely reminder of the importance of funding resources to ensure a quality education can be delivered to all children especially beginning in their early childhood years.

"Each year our union supports St Thomas's annual mango drive through purchasing boxes of mangoes and knowing the money will be donated to a worthy cause," Ms McLennan said.

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents nearly 16,000 non-government education sector employees including teachers, principals, school support staff, grounds and maintenance staff, early childhood education staff and employees in business, international and English language colleges."