



Queensland Independent Education Union

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Federal proposal puts quality education at risk

The Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) has today called for an integrated career structure for teachers and a well-supported program of teacher skill development to recognise highly accomplished teachers in Australian schools.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said that in contrast, the narrowness of the proposal for performance based pay announced by Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop was political opportunism and showed a total disregard for the work of education professionals and the standard of education in schools.

"Julie Bishop's proposal seeks to pit teacher against teacher and all but destroy the collegial nature of our schools where teachers work together to ensure the best quality educational outcomes for their students," Mr Burke said.

"Again, the Federal Government is simply using this as a device to draw attention away from inadequate levels of government funding to public education and low fee Catholic and Christian schools," he said.

"It is better pay, not merit pay that will attract and retain high quality and committed teachers to the profession," Mr Burke said.

"Teachers should be recognised through demonstrated proficiency against an agreed set of professional standards as set by the Queensland College of Teachers for example," he said.

Mr Burke said that instead of seeking to "recognise" teachers on the basis of standardised student reports and assessments, the Federal Government needed to increase commonwealth funding to education so that schools could recognise exemplary teaching with more appropriate levels of salary.

"What is needed is a genuine commitment from governments and employers to properly fund such models – something the Federal Government has consistently failed to do during its 10 years in office," Mr Burke said.

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents over 14,000 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."

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