

# Queensland Independent Education Union

*“Non-government education works because we do”*

Media Release

**Tuesday 27th August 2002:  
For Immediate Release**

**QIEU accuses government and C & K of threatening the future of C & K centres**

*Early childhood education*

Ahead of the imminent release of the list of preschool trial centres, QIEU has accused the state government and the Creche & Kindergarten Association of Queensland (C & K) of being complicit in moves which will see the demise of community early childhood education as we know it.

Mr Terry Burke, QIEU General Secretary said the ‘prep’ year trials flowing from the *“Education and Training Reforms for the Future”* proposals announced by the state government earlier this year, were the smokescreen for the uncoupling of kindergarten and preschool in the C & K community centres.

“It is now clear that C & K are intent on relocating the preschool year on to state school sites leaving residual kindergartens in existing community centres,” Mr Burke said.

“C and K’s apparent acceptance of the education department’s trial structure suggests they are happy to rely on government policy positions to shape the education model, while the community-based early childhood sector may be dramatically reshaped.

“It is becoming increasingly apparent that C and K is endeavouring to position itself as the preferred provider of the preschool year and childcare on state government sites.

“Under such a plan, C & K preschool centres would be relocated to the state school site and childcare facilities would be added. The existing C & K centres would become residual providers of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs.

“These developments would jeopardise the current jobs of C & K employees and question the educational role of teachers remaining in C & K kindergartens.”

Mr Burke said he had real fears for the future of C & K centres in remote areas, with wholesale disruption of existing community centres likely.

“C & K centres in rural and remote areas have a special place in the community and they should not be a play thing of the Minister and C & K.

“QIEU received an assurance from Education Queensland officers that QIEU would be consulted about the list of trial schools in the non-government sector, but no discussions have taken place.

“The lack of clear intention from the Minister and C & K on the future of the community centres is frustrating and is neither in the best interests of young Queenslanders nor in the best interests of the communities associated with the centres.

“Community preschools and kindergartens currently number 330 and employ over 1000 teachers and assistants who now stand to be disenfranchised as a result of this exclusive trial structure and process.”

The exclusive ‘trial’ list will name the participating schools, consisting of mainly Education Queensland school sites, with six Catholic Schools and three Independent Schools now also participating.

The ‘preparatory year’ policy is one in a number of Queensland Government announced initiatives, encapsulated in the “*Getting Ready for School*” policy document.

**For more information contact**

**Mr Terry Burke QIEU General Secretary on 07) 3839 7020 Mobile: 0419 640 078**

**Frances Frangenheim QIEU Communications Officer 07) 3839 7020**

**.../Ends**

**General Secretary:  
Mr Terry Burke**

345 Turbot Street,  
SPRING HILL 4000  
PH: (07) 3839 7020  
FX: (07) 3839 7021  
[www.qieu.asn.au](http://www.qieu.asn.au)