



Queensland Independent Education Union

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Catholic School Employees Accept Enhanced Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Employees in Catholic schools are set to have improved working conditions after accepting an enhanced Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) General Secretary Terry Burke said today.

“The Agreement covers over 11 000 employees and is the largest outside of the public sector and clearly the largest Agreement in the private sector in Queensland,” Mr Burke said

“Many employees initially rejected the document when it was put to ballot by employers in September because it did not adequately address significant employee concerns and contained flaws and errors.”

“Through further negotiations with employer representatives after the employer initiated ballot, employee representatives were able to ensure the errors and flaws contained in the document were addressed as well as gain significant enhancements in provisions for school officers.”

“School officers will now have a fairer Award classification structure as well as long service leave portability – a provision that will also extend to services staff,” Mr Burke said.

School officers and services staff make up a significant part of workers in non-government schools, including auxiliary, support, grounds and maintenance staff.

“Employee efforts have also been successful in gaining superannuation provisions which will lead to parity with the State sector,” Mr Burke said.

“Unfortunately this parity is to be delayed further by the employing authorities insistence these provisions be phased in.”

“While many employees also remain disappointed about their employers’ refusal to recognise existing sick leave accruals, overall employees have received significant gains to their working conditions.”

“Such gains have only been achieved through the strength of resolve of our members.”

“The gains in working conditions were only won from employers by concerted action from our members who were determined to have just and fair working conditions,” Mr Burke said.

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Media Release