



Queensland Independent Education Union

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Resolution of Catholic Sector Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations Rests with Employers

Enterprise bargaining negotiations in the Catholic education sector will only be resolved if employing authorities are prepared to address the outstanding issues which remain after their enterprise bargaining agreement was rejected last month by employees, Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke said today.

Employee representatives met with employer representatives, for the first time since the ballot, last week (15 and 16 October 2003) to put forward a set of considered positions on the outstanding issues in an attempt to resolve the negotiations.

“While the positions put forward by the employee representatives took into account feedback from employee consultations as well as prior employer concerns, the employing authorities continue to ignore the concerns of employees,” Mr Burke said.

“Employer representatives agreed to the inclusion of a provision relating to leave to care for a terminally ill family member, but rejected all other key concerns of their employees including an amended superannuation provision, an amended sick leave portability provision and provisions relating to school officers.”

“These issues are not new to the employing authorities, they have been there since the start of the negotiations and are in a large part the reason why their agreement was rejected by employees a month ago.”

“The employing authorities must now listen to and address the concerns of their employees rather than continue to choose not to do so,” Mr Burke said.

“Employee representatives have tabled amended positions for negotiation in an attempt to get resolution of these issues.”

“At this stage of the negotiations it is necessary for the employers to pursue common ground if they really do want to reach an agreement.”

“The negotiations reconvene on Wednesday, 29 October 2003 and the onus is squarely on employing authorities to make a positive response to the issues still unresolved if an agreement is to be reached,” Mr Burke said.

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