



# Queensland Independent Education Union **MEDIA ALERT**

Thursday, 23 October 2008

## **QIEU Welcomes Needs-Based Funding for Non-Government Schools**

Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke has welcomed the announcement of the state government on an increased focus on needs-based funding to Queensland's non-government schools.

"It is pleasing that the state government has committed to providing a greater proportion of funding support to service students with high needs in our schools," Mr Burke said.

"I am hopeful that this increased funding will provide greater benefits to schools with the greatest needs and will go to improving educational outcomes for students," he said.

"However, while we note the commitment to current funding levels as this structure is phased in, there are still some concerns about the impact on those schools which may lose funding after this phase-in period.

"While we welcome this direct targeting of funding, the government needs to ensure that funding isn't stripped away from other schools where there may not be as intense a level of need and thus create a shift of disadvantage from one set of schools to another."

"It would be a shame if the government merely redeployed these funds away rather than ensuring all schools are adequately resourced to meet with the needs of every Queensland student.

Mr Burke said QIEU would closely monitor the additional funding structure and the benefits to non-government schools.

Education Minister Rod Welford announced the needs-based funding structure for non-government schools earlier this week, with an increase in the proportion of funding from 22.5 per cent to 40 per cent of the total recurrent funding to non-government schools.

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*"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents over 14,500 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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