



Queensland Independent Education Union

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QIEU Members in Catholic Schools urged to vote No on Employers' Flawed Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) members in Catholic schools across the state are being strongly recommended to vote no when their employers bring their proposed enterprise bargaining agreement to ballot next week.

QIEU General Secretary Mr Terry Burke said meetings of members over recent weeks had identified a number of major flaws with the document provided by the employer and the only way for members to protect themselves was by voting no at the ballot.

“Catholic employing authorities have refused to come back to the negotiating table to consider the concerns members have over the document despite the fact many of the flaws in the document relate to significant issues for employees,” he said.

Mr Burke said key areas that remain flawed within the document included Wages, Superannuation, School Officers and Remote Area Provisions.

“In the case of wages, the wage schedules in the document are inaccurate and incomplete. In many instances the calculations are wrong and as a result many employees would be hundreds of dollars a year worse off with this wage schedule,” Mr Burke said.

“Meanwhile, School Officers who include auxiliary and support staff, have been given a blank page in the document where their classification structure will be added in later – after they have voted in the ballot”.

“This is a legal document, yet employees are being told by their employers to vote and say yes to a blank sheet of paper that employers will fill in later. This is an unacceptable situation and employees can only protect their interests by voting No”.

“On top of this remains the fact that the employer document does not meet the requirements of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for certification. Even if the document was passed at the ballot it would be difficult to certify in its current form,” Mr Burke said.

“The only way now for employees to protect their interests is to vote it down at the ballot and get the employers to return to the table to discuss fixing the flawed document,” Mr Burke said.

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Media Release