



QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION

ABN 45 620 218 712

Queensland Independent Education Union

“Non-government education works because we do”

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Preparatory Trials fail to offer adequate teacher support

The part-time employment of teacher aides in Preparatory Year trials commencing this week is not sufficient to support quality play-based education at these sites, the Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) said today.

“Teacher-aides must be employed full time to provide adequate support for teachers working with children on play-based models,” Mr Terry Burke, QIEU General Secretary said.

“QIEU has expressed concerns over the past months with the curriculum and staffing structure of the Prep trials and these concerns have now been similarly voiced by Barrie Elvish, chief executive officer of Crèche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland (C & K),” Mr Burke said.

“QIEU endorses recent comments by Barrie Elvish, that ‘research worldwide says play-based problem solving has a crucial effect on early brain development and should be the format for children entering the school system’”, Mr Burke said.

“QIEU shares the concerns expressed by C & K that the Prep trials could see play-based curriculum eventually replaced with a more formalised curriculum that requires less staff support,” he said.

“The Prep Year draft curriculum has only allocated 15 hours of teacher aide time per week, when teachers require full-time support for these programs.

“This inadequate allocation of teacher aide support threatens the future of developmental play education and the income of those teacher aides involved.

“The state government must recognise the validity of C & K’s concerns by redrafting the curriculum to mimic the current state and C & K kindergarten and preschool centres full-time teacher and teacher aide employment.

QIEU is also concerned about the impact of these Prep trials on the future of kindergartens in rural and remote locations and for the consequent impact on job security.

While two C & K centres will participate in partnership with state schools, the state government excluded C & K community preschools and kindergartens from entering the trials in their own right over objections from QIEU and C & K.

QIEU is the union for over 11 000 non-government school employees in Queensland.

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