



Queensland Independent Education Union **MEDIA ALERT**

Friday, 21 November 2008

QIEU Calls on Federal Government to Review Childcare Policy

The Federal Government should review its policy on the provision of 15 hours per week of educational programme for pre-school age children in light of the collapse of corporate childcare providers ABC Learning and CFK, according to Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke.

The Queensland Independent Education Union, which is the union representing qualified early childhood teachers, is calling on the Government to focus on community-based and not-for-profit centres to deliver its election promise of providing all children 15 hours a week access to a university qualified early childhood teacher.

"The Government must ensure children's education rather than profits for centre operators is achieved through this policy," Mr Burke said.

"Current policies have resulted in uncertainty for many families and staff, and the disappearance of substantial government funding into corporate black holes.

"It is fundamental to the interests of our children that the 15 hours of educational programme be delivered by qualified and registered teachers in an environment constructed solely for the delivery of education.

"It's time the Government re-examined its whole policy on the delivery of early childhood education.

"The Government should provide seed funding and interest free loans to enable new not-for-profit Early Childhood Education centres to be established," he said.

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For further comment contact: Terry Burke, QIEU General Secretary on 0419 640 078

"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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