



Queensland Independent Education Union MEDIA RELEASE

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Recommendations Disguise The Real Issues In Education

Professor Geoff Masters' recommendations released today to the state government regarding educational outcomes only serve to highlight the knee-jerk political reaction to the publication of national assessment of literacy and numeracy results (NAPLAN) last year and does little to address the real issue of resourcing of schools, said Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke.

In his report released today, *A Shared Challenge: Improving Literacy, Numeracy and Science Learning in Queensland Primary Schools*, Professor Masters recommends that as a condition of registration for primary school teachers they must show their proficiency through test performances in literacy, numeracy and science, if they want to practise in Queensland.

"The real issue is about schools having top quality resources to enable teachers to best deliver curriculum to their students," Mr Burke said.

"The idea of teachers sitting a maths exam to allow them to teach, not only questions the validity of pre-service teaching courses at universities, but is an affront to the obvious professional abilities of teachers," Mr Burke said.

"It's very rare that a teacher does not understand or know where each of their students are at regarding their literacy and numeracy standards. What teachers need are the specialist resources to assist those students who are struggling," he said.

"If Queensland teachers were the fundamental problem, why then are there students who excel in these tests? The issue is supporting those students who struggle."

"Giving backhanders to teachers does nothing to encourage them in the profession and clearly does absolutely nothing to attract the best and brightest to schools," Mr Burke said.

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents nearly 15,000 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."