



# Queensland Independent Education Union

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## QIEU Members Help Open Doors (and Windows) to Better Learning in East Timor

Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) members across the State are set to celebrate World Teachers' Day tomorrow by helping to open new doors and windows to a better world of learning for the children and teachers of East Timor.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said this year's World Teachers' Day theme of "Teachers Opening Doors to a Better World" provided an ideal opportunity for QIEU members to hold fundraising activities at their schools to raise money to buy much needed doors and windows for classrooms in East Timor.

"While much of the school infrastructure in the country has been rehabilitated and a new curriculum is being developed, there remains much to do in terms of providing security for classrooms," Mr Burke said.

"Many schools now have a roof but still lack any doors or windows which means there is no security for teaching materials or classroom contents, and as a result the classroom environment is stark and bare – providing little stimulation for student learning," Mr Burke said. "Putting doors and windows on classrooms will help East Timorese teachers be better able to provide their students with a more encouraging learning environment."

"QIEU members felt it was especially appropriate to celebrate tomorrow's theme by helping to raise money that would help open a better world of learning and knowledge for the children of East Timor," Mr Burke said.

Brisbane QIEU Member Andrew Elphinstone of the Marist College Ashgrove Chapter said World Teachers' Day was an important day of recognition for all teachers and being able to make a contribution to providing a better teaching environment for the children and teachers of East Timor made it especially significant.

"At my school we will be undertaking a number of activities including special morning tea celebrating World Teachers' Day as well a gold coin donation drive to help buy a door and window for an East Timorese classroom," Mr Elphinstone said. "On a day that celebrates teachers, it is especially important to recognise and support the contributions of our colleagues in other countries."

"Not only are we contributing to provide much needed security for classrooms, it will also help to open up a better teaching and learning environment in schools, which can only serve to the benefit of East Timor," Mr Elphinstone said.

### For more information contact

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Media Release