



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

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Employees at Sunshine Coast School Targeted for Redundancy

The Head of Sunshine Coast Grammar School (SCGS) has been accused of putting remarkable spin on the restructuring of positions in a decision which puts at risk the continuity of curriculum delivery at the School according to Terry Burke, Secretary of the Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch (IEUA-QNT).

In all, 21 staff will be affected with the potential for nearly all to be redundant with the School seeking external applicants for most of the 21 positions.

What is even more remarkable is that many of the curriculum positions are being advertised to external applicants when the only 'restructure' is to add early years of primary to the existing responsibility (i.e. Current Year 7 to 12 curriculum management would become Prep to Year 12).

"This is a massive backhander to incumbent staff and parents would be rightly concerned at the continuity of their children's education with potentially so much disruption to the management of the curriculum," Mr Burke said.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School has a fine reputation and past and present students and their parents know what an outstanding contribution these teachers have made.

"It would be a sad day to see so much lost in these highly questionable decisions," Mr Burke said.

Mr Burke also rejected claims by the School that the Head of School had any meaningful discussion with staff on the matter.

"Far from meeting personally, the Head read a statement and staff were not given the opportunity to direct questions to the School," Mr Burke said.

"Letters were handed out to the 21 staff subject to the restructure in a separate meeting.

"Employees at the School are feeling a distinct lack of engagement from the School with the Headmaster not even on the Sunshine Coast this weekend," he said.

Mr Burke said the School is being requested not to advertise the position externally so that urgent discussions can occur on the validity of the restructure and implications for staff.

"Most of the proposed restructuring is highly questionable placing at risk the high quality of education at the School," Mr Burke said.

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For further comment contact: Terry Burke, IEUA-QNT Secretary on 0419 640 078

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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."