



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 29 October 2010

QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CELEBRATE WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Thousands of teachers across Queensland will be recognised for their skills, professionalism and commitment to delivering quality education in the celebration of World Teachers' Day today.

World Teachers' Day in Australia is celebrated on the last Friday in October each year to give the community an opportunity to recognise the work of teachers in delivering quality education to Australian students.

The theme for this year's celebrations, 'Recovery begins with teachers', is appropriate in recognising teacher colleagues who continue to educate in the face of great hardship following natural, political and economic disasters across the globe.

IEUA-QNT Secretary Terry Burke said members have been encouraged to hold a celebratory morning tea today to acknowledge teachers for their efforts in enriching students' educational experience and to both raise much-needed funds to support the continuation of teaching and learning in the world's trouble spots.

"Teachers are at the heart of providing quality education to students in our schools," Mr Burke said.

"World Teachers' Day is a time to reflect on the importance of quality education for children and communities everywhere and as a reminder of the struggle of teacher colleagues in the Pacific region and in many other parts of the world."

Mr Burke said World Teachers' Day is also important in the face of developing national and state education agendas.

"The collective strength of our union will be critical to ensure appropriate outcomes in areas such as performance based pay and the implementations of the Australian Curriculum," he said.

"The day also serves as a timely reminder of the many enhancements to wages and working conditions achieved through union collective bargaining – and the fact that, both industrially and professionally, teachers are indeed stronger together."

Now celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day was first inaugurated in 1994 as a way to formally recognise the contributions our competent, qualified and motivated teachers make to the community.

"Both internationally and at home, teacher unionists accept a responsibility to speak out for quality education, the interests of students and in support of our profession," Mr Burke said.

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents nearly 16,000 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."