



# Queensland Independent Education Union **MEDIA ALERT**

Thursday, 04 December 2008

## **QIEU Urges Federal Government to Pass Schools Assistance Bill Without Delay**

Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke has urged the Federal Government to stop putting Queensland non-government schools at risk by delaying necessary funding through the passing of the Schools Assistance Bill in Parliament.

“The Federal Government should set aside the contentious issue of a national curriculum and pass the Schools Assistance Bill to ensure Queensland non-government schools receive funding for the money to flow in 2009.” Mr Burke said.

“Unless this happens, 144,000 jobs in the non-government sector across Australia will be at risk.”

Mr Burke warns the Federal Opposition to discontinue blocking this Bill because of their unfounded concern about the National Curriculum.

He said if the Bill is not passed, school staff could be stood down.

“The Bill should be agreed to and passed by the end of the year to not only guarantee funding for our schools but to also guarantee school staff of their jobs.

“Holding up the passing of this Bill in our current economic crisis is unconscionable.”

QIEU, which represents more than 14,000 members throughout Queensland, does not have any difficulty with the requirement to commit to a National Curriculum as specified in the Bill.

**THIS WAS NEVER RELEASED TO THE PRESS – BILL WAS PASSED BEFORE MEDIA RELEASE SENT**

**...Ends**

---

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

**For further information contact:** Fiona Richardson, QIEU Publications Officer on 0400 746 175

*“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.”*

**[www.qieu.asn.au](http://www.qieu.asn.au)**