



# Queensland Independent Education Union

ABN 45 620 218 712

*“Non-government education works because we do”*

**Media Release**

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**It’s a shame. It’s a sham.**

## **Catholic employers reject meaningful consultation**

Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) members in Catholic Diocesan and Order Owned Girls’ schools will consider taking protected action in the face of Catholic employers’ decision to push ahead with a ballot on a proposed enterprise agreement without further consultation.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said it was a shame that Catholic employing authorities were not interested in listening to the concerns of their employees and attempting to resolve outstanding matters of concern, instead of rushing to the ballot box.

Catholic employers have told employees there is no need for further negotiation and instead have announced they will make presentations to staff in schools to encourage a ‘yes’ vote in the ballot they have scheduled in the second last week of Term 3.”

“These employer presentations to staff are therefore a sham,” Mr Burke said. “They are simply an overt attempt to present the employer case for a positive vote for an agreement without any attempt to consult with their staff with a view to resolving outstanding concerns.”

Less than two weeks ago, on Wednesday 5 August, QIEU members in over 100 Catholic schools across Queensland took protected action in the form of uninterrupted lunch break meetings to consider their employers’ position on portability of sick leave entitlements and superannuation provisions. Some schools considered the issues so serious they took further protected action in the form of stop work meetings and rallies.

Mr Burke said feedback from members had indicated that over 95 percent of the school chapters that took action were dissatisfied with their employers’ position on these key issues.

“On the basis of that advice QIEU sought further meetings with employers to consider a satisfactory resolution of these issues; however, Catholic employers have rejected any further meetings or discussion with employee representatives and advised that their current position is not negotiable,” he said.

“QIEU members do not believe that the current employer document represents ‘the best negotiated position’ and have declined to be involved in the sham of a consultation process initiated by employers.”

In response to the employers’ lack of consultation Mr Burke said QIEU had scheduled a series of uninterrupted lunch break meetings on three consecutive Thursdays starting on 21 August, to enable members to be properly consulted on the proposed agreement.

“Meaningful consultation with employees is a vital part of the enterprise bargaining process,” Mr Burke said. “These uninterrupted lunch break meetings will provide members in schools with the opportunity to consider the merits and deficiencies in the current draft of the proposed agreement.

“Employees are entitled to an opportunity to carefully consider any proposed agreement and an opportunity to raise concerns about any such agreement prior to a ballot.”

### **For more information contact**

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