



ABN 45 620 218 712

Queensland Independent Education Union

“Non-government education works because we do”

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Sex Bias Scholarships – Simplistic Solution Misses the Point

“The proposed introduction of a discriminatory scholarship scheme for male teachers is an inappropriate response to the declining numbers of male teachers in Queensland schools,” Mr Terry Burke, General Secretary of the Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) said today.

“Queensland Catholic Education Commission’s (QCEC) support for such a scheme is glossing over a range of issues that frequently discourage men from seeking a career path in education,” Mr Burke said.

“Gender imbalance in teaching staff in schools is caused by a number of factors including the status of teachers in the community, pay and conditions, career paths, behaviour management and child protection issues,” he said.

“The proposed discriminatory scholarship scheme would not address these issues but may instead reinforce the view that the teaching profession is not a career for men.”

Mr Burke said it was also wrong to correlate differential achievement of students to the gender of teachers in a school.

“The view that the performance of boys is adversely affected by the ‘feminisation’ of the teaching profession as implied by the QCEC proposal is offensive.”

Research has clearly shown that it is not the sex of the teacher that matters but the teaching approach.

“All teachers have a responsibility to provide a supportive learning environment for all students no matter the gender.”

“Rather than basing employment practices solely on gender, we should be ensuring the teaching profession is valued by the community and structural changes in pay and conditions are made so that teaching becomes an attractive profession to the most able male and female applicants.”

“These skilled and capable graduates can then take up the challenge of meeting and adapting to the learning needs and learning styles of all students irrespective of their gender.”

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