



# Queensland Independent Education Union MEDIA ALERT

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## **QIEU calls for serious commitment to Education funding in the lead up to the State election.**

In the lead up to the State election, political parties have gone silent on education.

According to QIEU General Secretary, Terry Burke, politicians need to provide guarantees around professional rates of pay.

"In the face of the tough economic times ahead, the biggest issue facing education in Queensland is the retention of its greatest asset, its professional workforce," he said.

"Queensland needs to ensure that the wages it offers teachers and non-teaching staff in both the public and private sector are at least comparable with, if not superior to, those offered in other states."

"In Queensland, beginning teacher salaries are generally under \$50,000 while other States all offer in excess of this amount. Our Leading and Senior teachers earn less than \$72,000 per annum while teachers in other States are generally earning close to \$80,000."

"This election is the time to act responsibly to ensure Queensland attracts and retains teachers of the highest professional standards."

"This is a critical time for education in Queensland and the QIEU will be closely monitoring the educational platforms of each party, focussing on whether announced policies are realistic and meet the needs of students and educational workers throughout the state."

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*"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)**