

Welcome

Welcome to Staying in Touch, the e-newsletter for members on maternity, adoption or parental leave.

IN THIS EDITION:

- Useful contacts
- Sector Updates
- Date Claimers
- Labour Day 2011
- Benefits of Membership
- Member Profile: Brooke Rogers



SECTOR UPDATES

CATHOLIC

The Catholic sector is preparing for the commencement of bargaining for a replacement Collective Agreement in 2012. Get your thinking hats on – if there are particular conditions or situations relating to your work / life balance, family friendly work practices or any other work related considerations you would like to raise, please let your Union know. Contact your Chapter Representative, Organiser or keep an eye out for surveys or meetings where you can share your insights.

The PAR Review is well underway with a series of consultative meetings to be held in Brisbane and regional areas in Term 3. Members will be briefed on draft recommendations. For more information on this and the progress of the PAR review, head to <http://www.qieu.asn.au/858.html>.

ANGLICAN

Negotiations for a new Enterprise Agreement will commence in August 2011. Chapters have been invited to meet to have discussions around matters for the log of claims. So if you have any suggestions about items or issues you would like to be considered, get in touch with your Chapter Representative.

The Exemplary Teacher application process is underway across the state. If you are interested in applying or preparing your application to coincide with your return to work, please get in touch with your Organiser (1800 177 938) who can advise you accordingly and provide you with member-only Application Guides.

FEDERAL FUNDING – ACROSS THE SECTORS

Federal politicians will be visited by member delegations in Term 3 in order to raise awareness of the implications of changes to funding arrangements. The purpose will be to highlight the need for real funding increases for all schools and more targeted funding for special needs and disadvantaged schools. Members will be ensuring that the voice of the non-government sector is heard as the politicians consider details in the Issues Paper and final Report which is due at the end of the year. If you would like to be trained as a delegate, please get in touch. Please email soleary@qieu.asn.au

Want to download a copy of our new external breastfeeding and expressing policy for members? Please click [here](#)

Are you interested in reading about breastfeeding and your return to work? Click [here](#) and find a series of articles available for you to download from our website at www.qieu.asn.au/maternity

Want to ask us a question? Click [here](#) to send an email to IEUA-QNT Organiser Susan O'Leary at soleary@qieu.asn.au

Labour Day 2011

Members featured at the Annual Labour Day March on 2 May.

Mums, dads and children marched alongside colleagues from across the sectors in a celebration of the achievements of the labour movement, and to highlight current campaigns and concerns.

Come along next year – bring your family!



Member Profile - Brooke Rogers

I am a mother of three children – 3, 21 months and 4 months. I have been a teacher for nine years and teach SOSE, Geography, History and Study of Society. We are currently living in Adelaide for my husband's work and hope to return to Brisbane in the next 12 months.

I have been a member of our union for about 10 years. I joined as a student teacher in my final year of university. I believe our union serves a very important purpose in supporting its members legally and fighting for some very important work place rights. I joined as I felt that financially, I should support the union who fights for the benefits all teachers in independent schools enjoy.

Our union provided me with excellent support and advice in relation to my parental leave. I was not aware I was entitled to more leave with my third child; however the staff at the union followed up my questions and provided me with guidance requesting leave from my employer. I wanted to do things "properly" and our union helped me to do this.

Leanne Coade and Dominique Moritz were the two union officers who have helped me and provided me with the advice regarding this matter. They were both in constant contact with me, chasing me up on occasions to do things. I was prepared to resign from my job (because the whole thing seemed too hard and I was REALLY tired), however their perseverance with me ensured I didn't resign. Dominique was very efficient in providing advice and a letter for me to send to work and then she sent one too - within hours of me asking her to contact them for me. I am so pleased now they did that as I have just been granted an extra period of leave and am really happy I could keep my job. Thank you (and them) for the wonderful support our union provides.

The biggest challenge I will face going back to work is juggling my work commitments with my children's lives. My husband has a very busy job and he is not in a position to support me too much in caring for the children in a day to day capacity. The way the timetable is at my work I would need to put all three children in full time childcare to even work part time. The childcare fees would far exceed my earnings for the three children so I would need to weigh up if it was "worth it". I do love my job so believe it would be but financially returning to work in my situation currently does not really make sense.

Before having children I always felt I would be a stay at home mum but since having children I feel that being a part-time working mum would be a great balance.

My two older children are both in daycare two days a week and love going. Children are very resilient and for a mum to have some "me time" at work (what a ridiculous statement!) but to be able to have a lunch break, talk about things other than their children and have a break from the being at home all the time is great.

While my current circumstances do not really allow me to work I am very much looking forward to returning to Brisbane and getting back into the workforce.



Benefits of Membership

Members on maternity leave can still access free, confidential and professional advice on any workplace matter - even from home.

There is a special membership rate of \$90 (or \$3.30 per fortnight) for members to receive all our membership benefits while at home with baby.

There are a number of reasons members should remain union members while on maternity leave, including:

1. Professional advice on workplace matters

Common inquiries can include job share, teacher registration, continuing professional development, accessing paid parental leave, notice periods for resignation and others.

2. Legal assistance

3. Saving money on goods and services

Great savings on goods and services can be had using your Union Shopper. Just call 1800 368 117 or visit www.unionshopper.com.au for your next bargain.

4. Improved wages and conditions

5. Strong voice on professional issues

6. Advocacy through professional bodies

7. Staying in Touch e-zine



Contact our Membership Department on 1800 177 938 or (07) 3839 7020 to ask to be converted to our special discounted 'Maternity Leave rate' for the time you are away from paid work.

Useful Contacts

Pregnancy, Birth & Baby Helpline : 1800 882 436 for support relating to pregnancy, birthing, post-natal care and parenting in the first 12 months. Service operates 24 hours a day.

Paid Parental Leave scheme / Baby bonus www.familyassist.gov.au

National Breastfeeding Helpline - 1800 MUM 2 MUM (1800 686 2 686)

Postnatal Depression – www.beyondblue.org.au 1300 22 4636

Relationships Australia - <http://www.relationships.com.au/> - 1300 364 277

Domestic Violence - <http://www.dvconnect.org/> - Womensline 1800 811 811 Mensline 1800 600 636

Immunise Australia Program - 1800 671 811

Raising Children's Network - <http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/>

Members on Parental Leave - <http://www.qieu.asn.au/714.html>

Union Shopper - <http://www.unionshopper.com.au/>

Dates To Put On Your Calendar

Townsville – Members on Parental Leave Information Session – Term 3 – information to follow!

Townsville – Professional Women's Conference 11 October 2011 - Seagulls Resort, Townsville

With the focus on women in education, this one day conference will have three areas –

- Professional,
- Leadership and
- Gender Equity and Well-Being.

Flyers and registration details will be out in Term 3.