



Queensland Independent Education Union MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 11 May 2009

QIEU Supports QTU Colleagues In Fight For Professional Rates of Pay

Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) members will hold statewide workplace meetings, ahead of the QTU strike action announced today, in support of the joint campaign for professional rates of pay for teachers.

QIEU members endorsed their support for QTU colleagues in the campaign for fair pay for teachers at recent meetings and called on their employers to ensure the current round of collective bargaining also delivers wage parity.

Meetings will be held during school lunch time on Monday, 18 May across the state.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said the government cannot continue to be complacent about the wage issue and must meet or better interstate outcomes.

“QIEU members cannot take industrial action in these circumstances but they can and they will demonstrate their support for professional rates of pay,” Mr Burke said.

“If the government continues to balk at delivering fair pay to teachers, then the status of the profession will continue to fall, resulting in an exodus of teachers from schools into other careers or interstate,” he said.

Mr Burke also commented that achieving these rates is critical for the future provision and delivery of quality education in Queensland.

“As the current workforce ages and retires, it is imperative professional salaries are comparable, otherwise teaching will not attract the best new graduates into our schools,” he said.

“Having a shortage of teachers, will not only impact our social and economic future but will have ominous consequences for the educational future of Queensland school students.”

“During the 1980’s Queensland teachers were the lowest paid in the country. Failure to win comparable professional rates of pay, will again institutionalise Queensland as the low wage state for yet another decade,” Mr Burke said.

Ends

For further comment contact: Terry Burke, QIEU General Secretary on 0419 640 078
Paul Giles, QIEU Assistant General Secretary/Treasurer on 0409 895 959, or
Ros McLennan, QIEU Assistant General Secretary on 0419 737 059

**For further information and
Photo opportunities contact:** Belinda Hogan-Collis, QIEU Communications Officer/Journalist on 0419 653 131

“The Queensland Independent Education Union represents nearly 15,000 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.”