



Queensland Independent Education Union

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Catholic School Employees Say “No” to Employers Flawed Document

Employees in Catholic schools across the state have rejected a flawed and incomplete enterprise bargaining agreement put to ballot by their employers this week, Queensland Independent Education Union General Secretary Terry Burke said today.

“By voting ‘No’ employees have sent a clear message to their employers that they are unhappy with the current agreement and want them to listen to the concerns they have about the document,” Mr Burke said.

“Right up until the ballot employees were notifying the QIEU office about flaws and inconsistencies they had found in the employer’s document and expressing their concern about their employer’s refusal to hear their views on the document.”

“As a result QIEU asked the employing authorities for further negotiations to discuss and resolve these outstanding matters; however, they preferred to race to a ballot rather than listening to the concerns of their employees.”

“Now Catholic employers have a moral obligation to come back to the table to resolve the situation and address the concerns of their employees.”

“Employees were entitled to an opportunity to carefully consider any proposed agreement and raise any concerns they had with the agreement prior to the ballot– something which did not happen in this case.”

“It is untenable to expect employees to accept an agreement that will effectively govern their working conditions for the next three years when that document is riddled with flaws, inaccuracies and inconsistencies,” Mr Burke said.

“Now that the document has been balloted and rejected, QIEU has taken the necessary steps to ensure the outstanding issues are resolved in the best interest of employees.”

“We look forward to the employing authorities taking this second chance to finally listen to their employees’ concerns,” Mr Burke said.

Mr Burke said QIEU members were to be congratulated for taking the appropriate yet courageous step to reject the employer document.

“Their strength of resolve is the strength of our Union and I am grateful and humbled by the depth of their support for each other,” Mr Burke said.

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Media Release