



Queensland Independent Education Union

Thursday 1 December 2005 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAS STAFF RECEIVE STATE-WIDE SUPPORT

Staff from other Cairns independent schools joined this morning's protest meeting outside Trinity Anglican School to demonstrate the local education community's opposition to the Principal's flagrant disregard of their colleagues' workplace rights to a fair, negotiated process of addressing job losses.

TAS staff have received overwhelming local and state-wide support in their fight against an unfair process resulting in eight job losses just before Christmas.

"This is an issue that affects all education professionals. If an employer is able to get away with using an unfair process for making staff redundant, this poor workplace practice becomes the lowest common denominator harming standards in non-government schools" said QIEU General Secretary, Mr Terry Burke.

Protest faxes have also been flooding in to the Principal from concerned QIEU members in more than 76 independent schools all over Queensland – from Mt Isa to the Gold Coast and every regional centre in between.

This public support bolstered TAS staff, who had called an urgent crisis meeting inside the school this morning. TAS staff met to consider possible strategies to prevent or minimise job losses and further actions staff could take to pressure the employer to finally do the right thing.

"TAS staff once again unanimously and formally called on the Principal to rescind the issued redundancy notices issued to several colleagues and engage in immediate, direct negotiations with QIEU on behalf of staff to implement fair redundancy procedures" confirmed QIEU Cairns Organiser, Mr Patrick Meikle.

"Action taken by staff at the school so far has already resulted in one of their colleagues having his redundancy notice rescinded. The strength and resolve of TAS staff to fight this injustice is essential" said Mr Meikle.

QIEU has filed a dispute with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission against the employer and a conference has been set for Tuesday, 6 December 2005.

For more information contact:

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Media Release