



ABN 45 620 218 712

Queensland Independent Education Union

“Non-government education works because we do”

Wednesday 23rd July 2003 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QIEU Members Show Solidarity in Fight for Equitable Entitlements for School Officers and Services Staff in Catholic Schools

Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) members in Catholic schools across the State will take part in a Solidarity Day on Thursday 24th July 2003 to show their support for school officers and services staff members of their schools who continue to face inequitable leave provisions.

QIEU General Secretary Terry Burke said the Solidarity Day would see members taking part in a range of activities to show their support for their fellow colleagues who continue to work under a set of inferior Long Service Leave provisions compared with teachers in Catholic schools.

School officers and services staff make up a significant part of workers in non-government schools, including auxiliary, support, grounds and maintenance staff.

Mr Burke said that since the 1980s, teachers in Catholic schools have had full portability of long service leave provisions both within Queensland and interstate.

“In a ridiculous scenario, school officers and services staff have had interstate portability since 1994 while having been denied portability between Catholic employers within the same state,” Mr Burke said.

“That is, they can take their long service leave entitlements with them if they moved to a Catholic school in New South Wales, but they can not take the accruals with them if they change to another Catholic employer in the next suburb”.

“This has discriminated against school officers and services staff who have changed employer within Catholic schools within Queensland”.

“Negotiations between QIEU and Catholic employers are currently taking place as part of the current round of enterprise bargaining for this sector and through these negotiations QIEU is seeking to gain equitable provisions for school officers and services staff,” he said.

Mr Burke said Catholic employers have agreed to a limited long service leave portability which would still leave many employees severely disadvantaged.

“Under the Catholic employers proposal employees would be able from 1st January 2004, to have portability for long service leave they have accrued at their current school (as at 1st January 2004) and for any school they work in after that”.

“However, this will disadvantage any employee who has worked in a different school prior to 1st January 2004, some of whom may have given years of service in Catholic schools,” he said.

Media Release

Media Release

“Catholic school employing authorities need to distance themselves from their ‘bean counting’ advisers and make the right decision in the interests of equitable treatment of their employees,” Mr Burke said.

Teaching staff in particular have been vocal in their support of equitable long service leave provisions for school officers and services staff in their schools.

Brisbane QIEU member Olga Williams said the employers’ position continues to treat school officers and services staff with less value than teachers in their schools.

“Although we may do different jobs, the contributions school officers and services staff make to their schools are just as important as the contributions of teachers and therefore they deserve the same respect,” Ms Williams said.

“They deserve to have equal provisions with teachers and that is what the Solidarity Day is all about – that school officers and services staff deserve respect and the right to equitable long service leave provisions”.

“We are taking part in Solidarity Day activities to show our fellow colleagues that we support and respect them and that we do not support the inequitable long service leave provisions they currently have”.

“As part of the Solidarity Day I know members in a number of schools in the State will be taking part in a variety of activities. Some of the activities we have planned at my school include opportunities to celebrate the contribution school officers and services staff make to our schools as well as a petition to our employer from all staff as a way of showing support for equitable conditions for our work colleagues,” Ms Williams said.

**For more information contact
Mr Terry Burke QIEU General Secretary on (07) 3839 7020 Mobile: 0419 640 078**

**Or Laura Wise, Communications Officer (07) 3839 7020
or email lwise@qieu.asn.au**

.../Ends