



# Queensland Council of Unions

*Working with Queensland unions who represent over 350,000 workers in Queensland on industrial, political and social justice issues.*

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

## **Rally to support Shalom Christian College employees as the “Fair Go For Families” Bus gets on board**

### **All media invited**

**WHAT:** Rally to support the campaign to protect the working rights and conditions of Shalom Christian College employees from the use of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs).

**WHO:** The touring “Fair Go For Families” Bus, Shalom Christian College employees, local non-government and state school employees and concerned community members.

**WHERE:** Outside Shalom Christian College – 190 Hervey’s Range Road, Condon 4815 (opposite Brothers Leagues Club). Street parking only.

**WHEN:** From 3.30pm on Wednesday, 18 July 2007.

A further rally will be held by Shalom Christian College employees tomorrow (18 July 2007) as they continue their strong opposition to College management’s push to introduce AWAs, Queensland Independent Education Union (QIEU) Acting General Secretary Ros McLennan said today.

“Despite management’s continued threat to introduce AWAs which strip working rights and conditions, employees have remained strong and united in their call for a replacement union collective agreement,” Ms McLennan said.

As part of the rally, the “Fair Go For Families” Bus (currently touring North Queensland to raise community awareness of the anti-worker nature of the federal government’s IR laws) will join with Shalom employees, education union members and other union and community members to put the spotlight on the unjust actions of College management, Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) Townsville President Les Moffitt said.

“This rally is about letting management know that its blatant attack on the working rights and conditions of employees and the quality of education provided at the College will not be accepted,” Mr Moffitt said.

Ms McLennan said that presently teachers, school officers, cleaners and home school liaison officers had not received a wage increase since 1 July 2005; while other ancillary staff last achieved a final wage increase at the conclusion of the last union collective agreement in 2006.

“Despite employees’ consistent rejection of AWAs however, it appears that College management remains fixed in its unilateral decision to move to individual AWAs and thus threaten those working rights and conditions currently secured in the union collective agreement and Queensland legislation,” Ms McLennan said.

“This rally comes amidst increasing public pressure on Shalom Christian College after the recent protest outside the Uniting Church of Queensland Synod meeting on the Sunshine Coast and the Church’s reconfirmation of its strong opposition to the federal IR laws and the use of AWAs,” Ms McLennan said.

QCU Townsville Secretary Margie Dale said the situation at the College was the direct result of the introduction of the federal government’s industrial relations laws.

“These laws have given employers the power to do the wrong thing and in this case Shalom Christian College management has grasped that power with both hands,” Ms Dale said.

**Media interested in attending the rally should contact QIEU Townsville Organiser Patrick Meikle on 0437 541 168 for further details.**

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**Media Release**