



## Teachers strike on Catholic pay

TEACHERS at some of Brisbane's prestigious Catholic schools will take industrial action next week, pulling out of extracurricular activities.

St Joseph's Gregory Terrace, All Hallows' and Stuartholme schools, Marist College Ashgrove, Mt St Michael's College and St Joseph's Nudgee College are among 21 schools and five Catholic learning centres affected.

Catholic Education schools in Toowoomba will also take part in the ban on Monday and Tuesday.

Queensland Independent Education Union general secretary Terry Burke said it was the second time in six months their members had resorted to industrial action over pay.

**Tanya Chilcott**



**National curriculum goes back to basics**

**catch-up in class**

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“Those working in education have long been concerned about how the education of the indigenous students is done – it has not been a concentrated area of education,” he said.

Mr Cutler defended the focus on core subjects and said he didn’t consider HPE was as much a priority as English and science.

“It will be introduced in due course,” he said.

“We can’t cater for every variant of every subject.”

But Independent Education Union of Australia Queensland and Northern Territory (IEUA-QNT) branch secretary Terry Burke said the “back to the basics” focus of the national curriculum

draft meant students may miss out on being 21st-century learners.

He said the curriculum focus of maths, science, history and English fell short of including crucial issues such as politics, economics, multiculturalism, citizenship, the impact of a technological world, and adolescent health and welfare issues.

“Curriculum needs to be flexible and future-orientated, but unfortunately the Federal Government still has a long way to go if they want to achieve this,” Mr Burke said.

“To be informed citizens of the modern world students need a big-picture curriculum that addresses issues affecting their contempor-

ary society so they can develop the skills and knowledge needed to think and respond critically.”

Townsville parent, member of Pimlico High School P and C and James Cook University Physics Department Professor Peter Ridd said he commended the draft.

He said Queensland’s curriculum had long lagged other states, and that this was a step in the right direction.

He said his only concern was that assessment had not been addressed by the National Curriculum at this stage, which was an area he said was “subjective and very weak” in Queensland.

The National Curriculum is available online for feedback until May 23.



**CONSTANT TRANSITION . . . defence wife and mother Donna Pacey with Mitchell, 16, Hannah, 5, Madeline, 12, Olivia, 4, and Isaac, 13, at their Kirwan home**  
 Photo: EVAN MORGAN