

QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION  
INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA –  
QUEENSLAND & NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



BRISBANE  
346 TURBOT ST  
SPRING HILL QLD 4000  
PO BOX 418  
FORTITUDE VALLEY

Phone: 07 3839 7020  
Fax: 07 3839 7021  
Freecall: 1800 177937  
Email: enquiries@qieu.asn.au  
Internet: www.qieu.asn.au  
ABN: 45 620 218 712



Tuesday, 6 October 2009

Prpc131tb

**Professional Rates of Pay Campaign**



**CATHOLIC SECTOR - CHAPTER BRIEFING No. 20**

**Queensland Premier Confirms Independence of Negotiations  
Employer Attempt at Spoiling Tactics**

Dear Colleagues

The Catholic employers' argument that they can't negotiate on professional rates of pay ahead of the public sector arbitration has now well and truly unravelled with the Queensland Premier confirming in correspondence that negotiations in the non-government sector are conducted 'independently' of the public sector.

In a further development, it appears that one or more Catholic employers have made an approach to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) regarding our "Get Out the Vote" day in an apparent spoiling attempt on the process.

**Queensland Premier Confirms Independence of Negotiations**

Catholic employers have repeatedly asserted at negotiations and to members directly that they "value their positive relationship with the State Government" and will not negotiate on professional rates of pay ahead of the public sector arbitration.

Clarification of the status of non-government negotiations in relation to the public sector negotiations was sought from the Queensland Premier and Anna Bligh has replied in a letter this week as follows:

*"Enterprise Bargaining negotiations for the non-government education sector is a matter for private sector employers and their representatives, and is conducted independently of negotiations between the Queensland Government and the Queensland Teachers' Union.*

*I am unaware of any advice to the effect that private sector employers should be subject to government direction in relation to enterprise bargaining negotiations."*

The Catholic employer position on negotiation of professional rates of pay was always improbable; it has now become implausible.

Clearly the state government expects that negotiations in the non-government sector will be conducted independently of the public sector; there is no good reason why Catholic employing authorities cannot negotiate on professional rates of pay.

## **"Get Out the Vote" Day**

The AEC has advised that they have had their attention drawn to our recent briefing on "Get Out the Vote" day and in particular that our activity may jeopardise the secrecy of the ballot.

The AEC has sensibly advised us that "provided the secrecy of the individual's vote is respected at all times, then encouraging your members to vote is undoubtedly all to the good".

While employer spoiling tactics can be anticipated, this apparent employer action shows little regard for the common sense and propriety of members.

I know that Chapters will ensure the secrecy of the vote is maintained and no request would be made to a person to disclose in any way how they voted on the ballot.

## **Make Your Vote Heard**

Ballot forms must be returned to the designated AEC returning officer by 10:00 am Tuesday, 13 October 2009.

Ballot results can be expected shortly thereafter and members will be advised of the outcome in a briefing to follow.

Kind regards



**TERRY BURKE**  
**SECRETARY**