



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

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Catholic Schools to Close as Teachers Stop Work in their Campaign for Professional Rates of Pay.

Catholic schools in various parts of Queensland are closing next Wednesday 28 October with two local schools likely to follow as teachers take protected industrial action in support of a campaign for professional rates of pay.

Brisbane Catholic schools St Joseph's Nudgee, St Laurence's and St Joseph's Gregory Terrace have announced they are closing next Wednesday and Townsville Christian brothers schools will likely follow.

Members of the Independent Education Union-Queensland and Northern Territory (IEUA-QNT) working at Ignatius Park College and the Townsville Flexible Learning Centre overwhelmingly voted to take protected action due to the continual refusal of their employers to negotiate the endorsed wage claim ahead of state sector arbitrated outcomes.

IEUA-QNT Branch Secretary, Terry Burke said that this continued position by Catholic employers has left members no choice but to take protected action as a last resort.

"Catholic employers have continually told their employees that they will not pay professional rates of pay because they cannot afford them, but ironically will pay them if the state government does," Mr Burke said.

"What Catholic employers are saying is that the 'special relationship,' with the state government is far more important than the relationship with their own employees," Mr Burke said.

School teacher and IEUA-QNT President Andrew Elphinstone said, IEUA-QNT members are willing to stand up and be counted in support of quality education in Queensland.

"Taking protected action next Wednesday and rallying together will send a clear, strong message to our employers that inferior rates of pay cannot be institutionalised in Queensland Catholic schools," Mr Elphinstone said.

"We are fighting for professional wages because we want what is best for our students and for the future of education in this state. Our employers may lack the courage to stand up for their schools, but we do not."

"Professional rates of pay are essential to attract and retain accomplished teachers in our schools and this must be realised by Catholic employers. We now want them to negotiate this issue in good faith," Mr Elphinstone said.

Townsville teachers will be meeting on Wednesday 28 October at 10am at the Townsville RSL (HMAS Room) 139 Charters Towers Road.

While teachers employed by Townsville Catholic Education have at this time been denied the right to take protected action, they too will be demonstrating their support for professional rates of pay also next Wednesday.

4 out of 5 teacher members who voted in the earlier ballot cast a vote in favour of protected action.

A rally will be held from 4-5pm outside the office of the Townsville Catholic Education Office, 2 Gardenia Avenue, Kirwin.

All media welcome

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For further information contact: Belinda Hogan-Collis, IEUA-QNT Communications Officer/Journalist on 0419 653 131

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"The Queensland Independent Education Union represents nearly 15,000 non-government education sector employees including teachers, principals, school support staff, grounds and maintenance staff, early childhood education staff and employees in business, international and English language colleges."