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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA –
QUEENSLAND & NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



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Thursday, 29 October 2009

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Professional Rates of Pay Campaign



**CATHOLIC SECTOR AUTHORISED PROTECTED ACTION
Chapter Briefing No 5**

**Teachers Rally in Support of their Campaign for
Professional Rates of Pay
Catholic Employers Must Negotiate**

Dear Colleagues

Over 1000 teachers across Queensland Catholic schools met and rallied yesterday in their campaign for professional rates of pay condemning their employers refusal to negotiate a fair wages deal.

Teachers in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and regional areas Innisfail, Atherton, Dalby and Roma sent a strong and clear message to Catholic employers across the state that they must stop hiding behind state sector arbitrated outcomes and negotiate a fair wages deal in current negotiations.

Yesterday's Action

Up to 87 Queensland Catholic schools were affected by yesterday's action with many closed for the day.

It was clear from the teacher support that members want their employers to start negotiating the wages issue in good faith.

The protected industrial action was necessary because Catholic employing authorities have continually told their employees they will not pay benchmark professional rates of pay because of their 'special relationship,' with the state government.

Queensland Catholic teachers clearly are willing to fight for professional wages because they want what is best for their students and for the future of education in this state.

Catholic employers clearly do not have the courage to stand up for their schools and use their 'special relationship,' with the Queensland government to argue for professional rates of pay in Queensland schools.

In meetings yesterday Catholic school teachers unanimously carried a set of resolutions that called on their employers to enter into immediate negotiations for a wage outcome consistent with established professional rates of pay. A copy of the Resolutions (carried unanimously at each venue) is attached.

In the absence of employers entering into good faith bargaining, members unanimously voted to schedule further protected industrial action including regular work stoppages for report back to members.

Correspondence is being forwarded to employing authorities requesting a meeting by the end of next week to commence meaningful negotiations on the benchmark professional rates of pay.

A report back stop work meeting will likely be scheduled for Wednesday, 11 November. The required notice will be forwarded to employing authorities for those schools where protected action is authorised. Chapter members do not need to advise their employer if they will be taking the action.

Support Rallies

After school Rallies were also held outside Catholic education offices in Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane for members unable to take protected action yesterday.

Protected action ballots in five employing authorities failed to have at least fifty percent of ballots returned which is a requirement of the industrial legislation before action can be authorised. Another 75 votes needed to be returned in Brisbane CEO for a voted ballot.

Overall, 4 in 5 teachers across the state voted to endorse protected industrial action.

Next Steps

Catholic employing authorities have to reconsider their current wage position and enter into meaningful negotiations on benchmark professional rates of pay.

To do otherwise is to invite continued protected industrial action in their schools and place at long term risk, their relationship with their employees.

The employing authorities have the opportunity to resolve this at the negotiating table. They should take that opportunity.

Further briefings will be issued to keep members up to date in both those schools where protected action is authorised and those undertaking a further ballot.

Kind regards



TERRY BURKE
SECRETARY

Resolutions from Protected Action Meetings

28 October 2009

1. That members be commended for their campaign for teacher professional rates of pay and congratulated for their resolve and action in the face of the inadequate employer position on benchmark professional rates of pay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. That the position of Catholic education employing authorities on professional rates of pay be condemned reflecting more concern for a 'special relationship' with the State government than a concern to value and recognise the dedication and commitment of staff to Catholic education.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. That this meeting calls on Catholic education employing authorities to take note of the employee dissatisfaction with the employer position on professional rates of pay and further calls on employers to enter into immediate negotiations for a wage outcome consistent with established benchmark professional rates of pay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. That this meeting resolves that in the absence of meaningful negotiations further protected industrial action be scheduled including regular stoppages to receive a report back on the progress of negotiations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. That this meeting, in noting the non-payment of wages to those undertaking this full day stoppage, calls on each employing authority affected to donate sums withheld to a charity nominated by Chapters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY