



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 1 March 2010

Prpcpas47bhc

Further industrial action looms in Catholic Schools as employers fail to deliver a fair wages deal

More industrial action looms in Queensland Catholic schools with employees from some of Queensland's top Catholic schools (list attached) withdrawing their participation in co-curricular activities from March 8 to 14, in their continued campaign for professional rates of pay.

Members of the Independent Education Union-Queensland and Northern Territory Branch (IEUA-QNT) working have endorsed protected industrial action; the second time in less than six months they have had to resort to industrial action because of their employers refusal to meet benchmark professional rates of pay in current negotiations.

Members will withdraw from co-curricular sporting and cultural activities they may do outside their normal hours of duty. This includes the withdrawal from events such as the "Head of the River" regatta, school plays and musicals, debating, lunch time tutoring, community service and any other activity taken by teachers outside of their designated hours of duty which is not part of a Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) approved curriculum.

IEUA-QNT Branch Secretary Terry Burke said the wage offer from Catholic employers denigrates the state's Catholic teachers to some of the worst paid in the country.

"Our members do not want nor do they deserve an agreement which is inferior to what their colleagues working in Catholic schools interstate have received," Mr Burke said.

"How is it that a teacher working in a Christian Brothers school in Queensland can earn anywhere up to \$6,000 less than one working at a Christian Brothers school in New South Wales?"

"The wage offer also contains a number of objectable elements which would see employees in Queensland's Catholic schools ready to be branded the poor relation in comparison to their interstate colleagues."

"The employer position not only falls short of the wage claim, it is also worse than the public sector wage settlement and some gained by other major sectors in Queensland."

"Employees take protected action as an absolute last resort, however teachers in Catholic schools are again prepared to stand up and be counted in supporting quality education in Queensland's Catholic schools," Mr Burke said.

Teachers working in the Toowoomba Diocese will also withdraw from co-curricular duties on March 8 and 9.

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For further comment contact: Terry Burke, IEUA-QNT Secretary on 0419 640 078,

For further information and

photo opportunities contact: Belinda Hogan-Collis, IEUA-QNT Communications Officer/Journalist on 0419 653 131

"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."

List of Employing Authorities Participating in Protected Action for Co-Curricular Bans

St Ursula's College Yeppoon
St Rita's College
Padua College
Mt St Michael's College
Villanova College
Lourdes Hill College
Marist College Ashgrove
All Hallows School
Brigidine College
Stuartholme School
Mt Alvernia College
Christian Brothers Schools:
 Nudgee Junior College
 St Edmund's College
 St James College
 St Joseph's Nudgee College
 St Joseph's Gregory Terrace
 St Laurence's College
 St Brendan's College, Yeppoon
 Ignatius Park College, Townsville
 The Centre Education Programme
 Edmund Park Training & Leisure Centre
 Albert Park Flexi School
 Townville Flexible Learning Centre
 Noosa Flexible Learning Centre
 Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre

CEO Toowoomba (March 8 and 9)

...Ends

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