



INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION OF AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PROTECTED ACTION BALLOTS APPROVED FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYING AUTHORITIES

Union members in Catholic schools in the Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville education authorities will go to a ballot again shortly to determine if protected industrial action is authorised in their campaign for professional rates of pay.

Over 80 percent of all Independent Education Union-Queensland and Northern Territory Branch (IEUA-QNT) members who voted in the previous ballot, voted in favour of taking the action.

However, numbers were marginally insufficient in these employing authorities to make the ballot valid because of the onerous federal laws that require at least 50 percent of ballots be returned before a ballot is deemed valid.

A full day stoppage was authorised in 18 other Catholic employing authorities and a full day stoppage has been scheduled in these schools for Wednesday 28 October.

The Fair Work Authority (FWA) yesterday approved new protected action ballots for teachers in the three Diocesan Catholic school employing authorities along with Iona College (Brisbane) and St Patrick's College Townsville.

Further ballots will occur in a number of authorities for non teaching staff.

'Catholic employers are trying to misrepresent the ballot outcome', according to Branch Secretary, Terry Burke

'The simple fact is 4 in 5 members who voted in the earlier ballot endorsed the protected industrial action', he said.

'A further ballot is appropriate to enable members get the industrial recognition of the majority outcome they already voted for.'

"In the previous ballot, almost 78 percent of teacher members who voted in Brisbane's Catholic schools endorsed protected action."

"Close to 85 percent of teacher members who voted in Townsville and Rockhampton Catholic schools also endorsed the action, making it very apparent that Catholic employing authorities need to acknowledge the sizable vote of no confidence in their position on the wages issue," Mr Burke said.

"Members want what is best for their students and best for the future of the teaching profession, but they are frustrated by their employers continual refusal to negotiate on the issue of benchmark professional rates of pay," Mr Burke said.

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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."