

1 May 2024

Department inaction source of member frustration

THE Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) continues to campaign for greater consistency as schools experience workload and safety issues relating to teacher shortages.

Yesterday, the QTU was ordered to appear at the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) where the QIRC determined that the proposed work bans to be taken by QTU members from 1 May to 9 May, were unprotected and therefore unlawful.

The QIRC decision will not stop the QTU from campaigning for greater resourcing for our members to assist with the workload and safety issues they are currently facing.

President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Cresta Richardson, has said that campaign action continues. This is because the Department of Education needs to systematically address the unintended workload caused by an ad hoc approach to the teacher shortages, workload inconsistencies associated with the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum, and the use of school disciplinary absence (SDA) data as a performance measure.

"QTU members are determined to stand together to ensure the department adheres to its obligations to deliver safe working conditions and tangible reductions to workload, Ms Richardson said.

"There are a number of activities that QTU members will be undertaking to support campaign action.

"In correspondence with the Director-General yesterday, the QTU acknowledged the arrangements now in place for a workforce roundtable.

"Until outcomes of the roundtable discussions are implemented however, teachers and school leaders will continue to be impacted by workload and safety issues relating to the teacher shortages.

"The QTU calls for a commitment by the department to come to the table with urgent and systematic solutions rather than the inconsistent arrangements currently in place."

The Valuing Our Profession campaign will continue to ramp up over the Labour Day long weekend as QTU members demand immediate, systematic, and consultative action from the Department of Education.

Ends

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