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## Queensland Teachers' Union advocacy delivers win for teachers and students

In a significant victory for Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) members, the Queensland Government has withdrawn proposed amendments relating to school disciplinary absences (SDAs) and mandated student support plans from the *Education (General Provisions) Act* (EGPA) bill.

QTU President, Cresta Richardson, said the government's decision to withdraw the problematic amendments was a win for whole school communities.

"This decision ensures that school leaders can continue to exercise their professional judgment in maintaining the good order and conduct of schools, as well as ensuring safety, wellbeing and positive teaching and learning environments for all QTU members and for their students," Ms Richardson said.

Ms Richardson praised the collective efforts of the QTU's 48,000 teacher and school leader members.

"QTU members were prepared to take industrial action to oppose these amendments, but through our submissions and ongoing discussions, the Education Minister and Premier have shown they are willing to listen to Queensland's state school teachers and school leaders," Ms Richardson said.

Ms Richardson congratulated all members who participated in the campaign, contacted Members of Parliament, and stood up for the rights of educators and students.

Ms Richardson also highlighted the Minister's commitment to addressing issues related to occupational violence and providing support for schools working with disengaged students. The Minister emphasised the government's \$288 million package to support teachers and school leaders, which includes school support, family liaison, flexi-spaces, new pathways college campuses, alternative education programs, and support for First Nations' children. The first tranche of 25 flexi-spaces is expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

"This is a positive step forward and demonstrates that the government is listening to QTU members and is prepared to act," Ms Richardson said.

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