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Queensland Teachers' Union members demand action

The Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) continues to campaign for greater consistency in the approach to the implementation of new initiatives by the Department of Education (the department).

This week, QTU members commence a week of action from Wednesday 1 May to Thursday 9 May to urge the department to immediately adopt a systemic strategy to attract and retain teachers and school leaders and fill critical vacancies.

To date, a number of matters remain unresolved by the department, these include the development of a systematic approach to the teacher shortage, workload inconsistencies associated with the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum, and the use of school disciplinary absence (SDA) data as a performance measure.

President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Cresta Richardson, has said that QTU members are demanding action. If we are to attract new teachers to the profession and retain the great teachers already in the system, Queensland Teacher's' Union members need to feel as if they are truly valued by their employer, the Department of Education.

"The department must stop implementing new initiatives without prior consideration to the workload impost on our teacher and school leader members," Ms Richardson said.

"The department needs to address the unintended workload caused by an ad hoc approach to the teacher shortage and remove the expectation on members to participate in activities outside of school hours, or other activities that are not essential to student learning and the provision of safe workplaces.

"Work bans are a form of action that aim to minimise any disruption to student learning; they do not include stop work action.

"Work bans are not something the Union or its members consider lightly, rather this week of action focuses on allowing teachers to teach and leaders to lead.

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

Members will participate in a range of work bans throughout the week of action as the Valuing Our Profession campaign ramps up to demand immediate, systematic, and consultative action from the Department of Education.

Ends

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