

24 April 2020

IEUA-QNT REJECTS ISQ CLAIMS ON SCHOOL FUNDING

A statement by Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) alleging that the Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEUA-QNT) Branch had claimed non-government schools were in receipt of special funding packages is incorrect.

IEUA-QNT Branch Secretary Terry Burke rejected ISQ's claims made in a media statement today.

"Our union has never claimed non-government schools are in receipt of special funding packages," Mr Burke said.

"It is a fact that non-government schools continue to receive the same recurrent state and federal funding.

"Any loss of fee income is by ISQ's own admission arising from significant fee remissions being offered to parents.

"Neither ISQ nor the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC), as the key non-government education employer representatives, have sought discussions with our union regarding a joint representation to government seeking special funding – a joint approach we remain open to pursuing.

"Our union recognised immediately that few if any schools would be eligible to access JobKeeper because of the high eligibility threshold.

"As such our union at a federal level has continued to make consistent representations to the federal education minister that special funding is needed for non-government schools to maintain employment.

"At this point we know that boarding payments for remote and First Nations students will continue to be paid by the federal government for Term 2 – whether these students are in attendance or not.

"Beyond that, uncertainty still exists within the sector and we as the union representing 17,000 teachers and school support staff in non-government schools across Queensland and the Northern Territory remain committed to pursuing all paths to provide stability and surety for employees and our schools.

"This includes working directly with ISQ and the QCEC to put the best interests of staff, students and schools front and centre during the COVID-19 crisis.

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