

26 March 2020

Move to student free mode for Queensland schools commended

Today's announcement by Queensland Education Minister Grace Grace that all Queensland schools and kindergartens will go into student free mode from next Monday, 30 March has been commended by the union representing 17,000 non-government teachers and school support staff.

Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEUA-QNT) Branch Secretary Terry Burke said today's announcement was critical in addressing the needs of vulnerable workers in our schools as well as in providing teachers and school support staff time to develop the remote learning modules and programs needed to facilitate ongoing student learning given the new reality facing our communities.

Mr Burke said vulnerable school employees included those with underlying health conditions, those aged 60+, First Nations peoples aged 50+, those who are pregnant and those who provide care for elderly relatives within their own household.

"There must also be an orderly transition to emergency schooling arrangements," Mr Burke said.

"The resources and protocols needed to enable remote teaching and online learning require urgent confirmation," he said.

Mr Burke said it was appropriate that today's announcement included arrangements to support continued school attendance of the children of workers required in their workplaces including children of emergency services and health care workers.

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