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## Ipswich Grammar School staff to suffer under employer wage plan

The wages of teachers and school support staff at Ipswich Grammar School (IGS) would be set below the current rate of their counterparts working in local state, Catholic and Lutheran schools under a proposed IGS plan.

The Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) which represents employees at IGS has condemned the plan which would set IGS staff wages below the community standard and place quality education at IGS at risk.

IEU-QNT Organiser Craig Darlington said IGS wants to pay its staff less but still have them provide the same level of quality education students and their parents have come to expect.

“The problem is that when you start to pay employees less than others schools in the area – you are likely to see your staff leave for placements in other schools where they are recognised and respected for the work they do,” Mr Darlington said.

“I’m sure parents of IGS students would be shocked to learn of this proposal by the school and the future impacts it will have on retaining and recruiting teachers and school support staff alike,” he said.

“At the same time, the school has also rejected a number of working conditions that would address workload issues for staff – showing just how little they are concerned about their employees.

“The question IGS staff and students’ parents are asking right now is why would a school with the history and legacy of IGS jeopardise quality education in this way,” he said.

Mr Darlington said IGS employees were set to vote on the school’s proposal late next week (26-30 November 2020) and were strongly being urged to vote no in order to bring the employer back to the negotiating table.

“Instead of listening to employees, the employer has stopped negotiations and sent this out to a vote,” Mr Darlington said.

“This means the only way for staff to have their concerns over this shocking plan heard is by voting no in the upcoming ballot,” he said.

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