



Media Release – 9 August 2022

IEU members rally for urgent workload relief and a fair deal from Catholic employers

IEU member delegations from Catholic schools across Melbourne will be rallying in front of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools headquarters on Thursday afternoon to call on employer representatives to agree to urgently-needed measures to tackle the workload crisis in our schools.

IEU members in Catholic education are increasingly angry and disappointed at being left behind. Their colleagues in government schools and Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale have won vital workload reforms and other conditions, and will soon be receiving long-awaited backpay. Catholic school staff in the Melbourne, Ballarat and Sandhurst Dioceses, however, have no deal in sight, thanks to the intransigence of employer representatives.

Quotes attributable to Deb James, General Secretary, Independent Education Union Victoria Tasmania:

“No deal means no workload relief. It means more burnout, and more staff leaving for schools where their work is properly valued and they have the time they need to dedicate to education. It means workers who’ve been waiting almost two years since their last pay increase will continue to wait. It also shows no respect or appreciation for teachers, support staff and principals who have worked themselves to exhaustion to support and educate students throughout the pandemic.

This action is an after-school rally, not a strike. We want to get this deal done without disruptive industrial action. Our members have been waiting nearly two years for a salary increase, and we don’t think they should have to lose pay simply to achieve workload reforms which are so urgently needed in our schools.

It’s also absurdly difficult for our members to take protected industrial action, due to unfair limitations in the Fair Work Act applying to a sector like ours with multiple employers. Our members have shown in the past that they are prepared to take industrial action if necessary, and we don’t rule that out – but we call on Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools to avoid putting our members in that position by coming to the table with a deal which addresses the workload crisis and ensures that Catholic schools don’t become second-rate workplaces.

Our members are absolutely exhausted – and it’s shameful that after their extraordinary work over two years of lockdowns, their employer’s representatives can’t agree to put in place basic and long-overdue provisions to ensure that workloads are sustainable, and our students are taught and supported by staff with the time and resources they need to do their jobs properly.

Turning up to Catholic Education HQ after a long day at work is the last thing anyone wants to do. However, if employer bargaining reps are so out of touch with the reality in schools and the needs of employees, we have no option but to bring the message to them”

Rally Details:

4.30pm, Thursday 11 August
(In front of) James Goold House,
228 Victoria Parade,
East Melbourne

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