

# NewsExtra

## Employers Delay on IEU Claim for Catholic Systemic Schools

The IEU is seeking pay rises and greater regulation to address the increasing workload pressures felt by members as part of our claim in the current round of enterprise bargaining.

After four months of bargaining, there has been little progress with the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER) failing to respond on many issues and saying this is a matter for further discussions with dioceses. However, despite having met with all dioceses, we are still awaiting a formal response from each of them. If we do not see significant progress in the negotiations by mid March, the Union will consider calling on members to vote in a ballot to take protected industrial action.

### BACKGROUND

The IEU reported to members last year on the Union's pay and conditions claim, endorsed by the Union's Council AGM in October and members in Chapter meetings around NSW and the ACT in October and November.

The Union is seeking pay rises that at least match the relevant public sector outcomes for teachers and support staff.

In addition, the Union is seeking measures to address the work intensification experienced by members across Catholic schools and to establish basic enforceable guidelines on workload.

The Union is also seeking to update aspects of our enterprise agreement in line with recent improvements in pay and classifications applying to government teachers.

### NSW PAY RISE OVERDUE

A 2.5% pay rise was paid to teachers in NSW government schools from 1 January 2017. The ACT public schools enterprise agreement requires a 1.5% pay rise from 1 April as part of a 3% pay rise in 2017. The Union is awaiting a formal commitment from CCER to match these increases for teachers and commit to a 2.5% pay rise for support staff.

### NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE

The Union initially attempted to meet with dioceses in November concerning our workload claim. Dioceses refused to meet, or where they had agreed to meet, abruptly cancelled the meetings. This clearly was a tactic orchestrated by CCER to frustrate negotiations concerning the Union's claims.

On 2 December, CCER advised the Union, contrary to the tactic outlined above, that our workload claims could be addressed directly with dioceses. Separate meetings have been held with all dioceses. At these meetings, the Union representatives discussed the claim in detail and asked for information about current practices in the diocese, including the number of large classes above 30 students. We are still awaiting a formal response to our claim following these meetings.

The Union also met with CCER twice in December and in February to discuss the details of our claim, including the pay rises, changes in classifications, support staff conditions etc.