Majority of Catholic school staff do not vote in favour of union’s industrial action

Queensland’s Catholic schools will remain open after the majority of staff did not vote in support of today’s strike action.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Dr Lee-Anne Perry said 75 per cent of the 19,000 staff in Catholic schools did not vote for the strike action – the latest stop-work measure encouraged by union officials during the ongoing enterprise bargaining negotiations.

“Three-quarters of staff across the state’s Catholic schools did not vote in favour of this action and this raises questions about the union’s tactics in continually seeking to escalate their campaign,” Dr Perry said.

“Employers have tabled a fair offer. Employers continue to offer an annual wage increase of 2.5 per cent. Employers have also offered to match any increase provided to Queensland’s state school teachers to ensure a level playing field across the state.

“The offer is fair in the current Queensland marketplace and it comes with full backpay.

“Comparisons with conditions in other states is irrelevant. For example, in NSW teachers have conditions which are based on different working hours and different finishing times each year. Last year they finished school on 18 December whereas in Queensland Catholic schools finished on 4 December.”

Dr Perry said Queensland’s Catholic schools would work to ensure any disruptions caused by the planned strike action were minimised.

“There will be supervision at all schools and at many schools it will be business as usual,” Dr Perry said.

“Parents in some schools have been given the choice to keep their children home where limited supervision is on offer. I respect a parent’s right to do so, but I want to assure all parents that appropriate supervision is available at all schools for children who attend.”

“At this stage the only closures will be at five Flexi Learning Centres which are part of the Edmund Rice Education Australia network.”

VOICE GRABS FROM DR PERRY CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE QCEC NEWS PAGE.

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS WOOLLEY 0478306260 FOR FURTHER COMMENT.

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