



NSW/ACT Independent Education Union

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SALARIES UPDATE

'IN THE COMMISSION'

Dear Reps and Members

The Union, the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER) and a representative group of Diocesan employers, met yesterday in a NSW Industrial Relations Commission Conference.

The Judge made no reference to the decision of the Union to disregard a recommendation that today's stop work not proceed.

Instead, discussion focussed on the failure of the parties to agree on a 2.5% 'interim' salary increase from 1 January 2009 and the lack of meetings to discuss the full IEU salaries and conditions claim.

The 2.5% Salary Increase

Members should note that the NSW Department of Education made an application to the Commission to increase public sector teacher salaries by 2.5% from 1 January 2009. The NSW Teachers' Federation opposed the application.

The Department then advised the Commission it would simply pay the increase administratively despite the award not being varied by the Commission.

The IEU has also advised we oppose an 'interim' increase.

The Union does not accept that only 2.5% of any salary increase will be 'funded' with any increase above that paid for by cuts to teachers' working conditions.

The Catholic employers should pay the increase administratively in the same way as the Department.

Members should note that the Union agreed to a 2.5% 'interim' increase to apply from 1 July 2008 for all support staff awards (awards expired on 30 June 2008).

The Catholic employers have still not agreed to a further 1.5% for maintenance and outdoor staff despite there being no areas of dispute.

The IEU Claim

In private conciliation, the Union and the employers discussed the departmental 'trade offs', the linkage between salaries in the public sector and also other awards in the Catholic sector (Independent schools, support staff and early childhood) not yet agreed.

Discussion will take place between the Union, CCER and Diocesan representatives on Thursday 4 December with a report back to the Commission on Friday 5 December.

At long last, there are finally discussions taking place on our full claim and the relevance of 'trade offs'.

This is a difficult dispute to resolve but there will be no movement at all without genuine discussions taking place.

We thank members for their continuing support.

All members will receive an update on any developments before the end of the school year and also at their home address during January.

Feedback from today's stop work meetings will also be forwarded to Reps.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Shearman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DICK SHEARMAN
General Secretary