



Independent Education Union of Australia NSW/ACT Branch

IEUA NSW/ACT Branch
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MN:158/21

Mr Angelo Gavrielatos
President
NSW Teachers Federation
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Dear Angelo

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS STRIKE 7 DECEMBER 2021

The IEU expresses our support and solidarity for colleagues employed in public schools who are taking industrial action on 7 December 2021. The union fully supports the campaign by the NSW Teachers Federation to achieve professional rates of pay for teachers and a reduction in the overwhelming workload, including by a reduction in face-to-face teaching time. Teacher shortages are becoming critical across all sectors of education and inadequate pay and job demands that are impossible to meet are part of the problem.

The pay and conditions of our members in Catholic systemic schools link to the conditions in the public sector. Our current enterprise agreements expire at the end of this year and the union will be running a strong campaign on behalf of our members for the same pay rises and improvements in conditions. Our claim has been endorsed by members and we have urged Catholic employers to commence bargaining.

The union is committed to doing everything possible to achieve our objectives including, if required, protected industrial action in accordance with the rules applying under the *Fair Work Act* (unlike the NSW Teachers Federation, the IEU is in the federal industrial relations system not the state system). We will be calling on members in our Catholic systemic schools to take action to support us in this struggle as soon as they can legally do so, which is from early in Term 1 2022.

Yours sincerely

CAROL MATTHEWS
Acting Secretary