

IEU REPS UPDATE

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MEMBERS WIN TERM DATES DISPUTE

Late yesterday afternoon (Tuesday 14 March), the dispute between the Union and Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn regarding term dates was resolved.

The Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER), acting for the Archdiocese, advised the IEU that it was prepared to agree Monday 24 April would be part of the pupil vacation period. The first day of Term 2 in ACT systemic schools will be Wednesday April 26 for both teachers and students.

The Union will therefore not continue to insist that the Fair Work Commission arbitrate this matter.

While the issue of term dates is resolved for 2017, the Archdiocese has not agreed that it will follow ACT public sector term dates in the future nor that the wording of the Enterprise Agreement requires it to do so. This remains an issue in the current bargaining for a new Enterprise Agreement, where we are seeking that this be put beyond doubt.

Also unresolved, is the argument put by CCER on behalf of the Archdiocese, challenging the capacity of the Fair Work Commission to act as an "independent umpire" in settling disputes unless the employer agrees.

The Union has written to CCER demanding that it reaffirm, on behalf of all 11 Catholic Dioceses, the right of the Union to arbitration of disputes without requiring agreement of the employer. This issue continues to have profound implications for members in systemic schools across NSW and the ACT.

The response from CCER will be considered by the Union's Council meeting this coming weekend.

The strong and united stand by members in ACT Catholic schools has been vital in bringing this dispute to a successful conclusion. Thank you for your support.

For further details, contact your Organiser on 02 6120 1500.



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