



NEWSEXTRA

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Member update

Stopwork action

IEU Chapters in Catholic systemic schools across NSW and the ACT have endorsed the union's call for stopwork action to protest the lack of satisfactory progress in negotiations for a new Enterprise Agreement (EA).

The IEU wrote to employers on 25 October complaining about the slow progress of negotiations and continuing undiminished workload pressures. We referred to:

- unacceptable workloads
- our claim for pay increases, and
- the unresolved support staff pay issues.

We have not received a response to this letter. Employers have also not agreed to our request for an in-depth discussion about measures that could be adopted quickly to address workloads.

Who can participate in the stopwork?

All IEU members in Catholic systemic schools who have voted for industrial action in a Protected Action Ballot (PABO) are entitled to stop work. Hundreds of Catholic systemic schools in NSW and the ACT will be taking some form of stopwork action.

Even if your Chapter has not recently voted to endorse stopwork action, individual IEU members in schools covered by the PABO are still entitled to participate in the stopwork.

When is the stopwork?

The majority of Chapters voted to take action on **Tuesday 15 November from 8.30am to 9.30am.**

A number of Chapters voted for an alternative date or time, usually in the same week, or to take a longer stopwork. [Click here for a list of Chapters stopping work at different times.](#)

Unless your Chapter has advised the IEU that you will stop work at a different time, you should **only** stop work from 8.30am to 9.30am on Tuesday 15 November to ensure your action is protected.

How do I participate in the stopwork?

The IEU has advised your employer of your Chapter's stopwork action. Individual IEU members are **not** required to notify their school that they will be stopping work.

To make informed decisions about the operation of the school, your principal is entitled to ask which staff members will **not** be stopping work. A copy of this NewsExtra will be sent to all IEU principal members.

What will happen during the stopwork?

Members can choose how to spend their time during a stopwork. You could meet as a Chapter to discuss how workload issues may be addressed, or gather outside the school gates and give campaign information to parents (see how parents can help, below).

Alternatively, you might decide simply to arrive at school ready to commence work at 9.30am instead of 8.30am. Discuss your options with other members of your Chapter. We encourage you to wear your yellow t-shirts and email photos to your Organiser or to ieu@ieu.asn.au

In conjunction with the stopwork action we will stream a 10-minute video on the campaign so far and the progress of negotiations ([click here to watch the video](#) – available from Monday 14 November). You can play this video at a Chapter meeting or any other gathering of members. You are also welcome to share the video on social media.

How much pay will be deducted?

For teachers:

- pay will be deducted on the basis that one hour of stopwork is equal to 1/76 of a full-time employee's pay for a fortnight.

For support staff:

- the deduction will be based on your hourly rate which should be shown on your payslip
- for an employee who works 38 hours per week the deduction will be equivalent to 1/76 of your fortnightly pay.

If any member stops work for longer than an hour, the deduction will be greater.

For teachers, stopping work is not just about timetabled face-to-face teaching – it includes any professional duties such as supervision, meetings, preparation and marking time. These all count as time that you are not working.

If you have any duties scheduled immediately before the one-hour stopwork, you should either perform them or arrange with your principal to have the duties covered by a non-member. If you do not perform these duties or have them covered, your pay may be docked for that additional time as well.

How parents can help

The union has written a letter to parents explaining the stopwork action and we urge you to share this letter with them online or download, print and hand it to them (this is protected industrial action). [Download the letter to parents here](#).

The letter to parents urges them to write to their Education Minister (either NSW or ACT) asking her to take action on salaries and workloads (these letters download automatically and include the Minister's email and postal address):

- [write to NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell](#)
- [write to ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry](#)

Thank you for your support in this difficult campaign.

Invite your colleagues who are not members to [join the union](#).

