

Wednesday, 5 May 2010

My School issue reaching 11th hour – moratorium remains

Queensland Teachers' Union President Steve Ryan has announced the moratorium on implementing the 2010 NAPLAN tests remains in place, despite orders issued by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) on Friday, 30 April.

The QTU's Executive made the decision last night because the implications of lifting the moratorium, and so allowing the data to be misrepresented on the Federal Government's My School website, had grave consequences for the future of education in Australia and for the nation's education profession.

Mr Ryan said the QTU remained part of the national Australian Education Union campaign urging Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard to come to the table and work with teacher unions to address the inaccuracies and misrepresentations on the My School website.

"We have seen as recently as the weekend that My School's simplistic use of limited NAPLAN data encourages the production of potentially hugely damaging league tables," Mr Ryan said.

"If My School remains in its current form, with its misleading presentation of NAPLAN data and lack of accurate, meaningful information, we will see Australian schools heading down an ominous path – in the UK and USA, there is ample evidence that over-reliance on such data to 'judge' schools has crippling impacts on some school communities which are unfairly labeled as failing.

"NAPLAN data should never be used to reduce schools to a number for bureaucratic expedience."

Mr Ryan said that with NAPLAN tests due to be implemented next week, the campaign had reached the 11th hour, but meetings were continuing throughout the day between members of the AEU Executive.

"Ms Gillard has the ability to resolve this dispute at any moment, but teacher unions across Australia remain hopeful of a last-minute breakthrough with the Federal Government," Mr Ryan said.

For more information, contact:

QTU President Steve Ryan 07 3512 9000

Nicole Mathieson (Media Officer) 07 3512 9000 or 0400 500 393

Media release available online at www.qtu.asn.au