



**TO: QTU REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Please e-mail or provide a copy to each member (do not simply place on the noticeboard)**

# Strong support for My School campaign

QTU members have overwhelmingly supported non-cooperation with the 2010 NAPLAN tests if the federal government does not agree to changes in the My School website and protect the data from misuse by the media and others through the generation of league tables.

**Over 16,000 members in more than 760 schools participated in the ballot. 95% supported changes to the website and protection from league tables while more than 85% supported non-cooperation with the 2010 NAPLAN tests if the federal government does not agree to changes.**

The AEU (the federal union representing state school teachers around Australia) is continuing to seek negotiations with the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard. **A deadline of 12 April 2010 has been set for an agreement to be reached.** Otherwise, teachers around Australia will be advised not to cooperate with the 2010 NAPLAN tests, which provide the key data for the My School website.

An announcement will be made following a meeting of unions from all states and territories in Melbourne on 12 April 2010. The QTU will ensure that members are advised as quickly as possible after the decision is made.

It was reported at an AEU Federal Executive meeting on 25-26 March 2010 that while talks had occurred with the Deputy Prime Minister's office, there had been no movement on the issues of concern. The Federal Executive unanimously supported non-cooperation with the 2010 NAPLAN tests unless the Deputy Prime Minister and the federal government negotiate a satisfactory outcome. The QTU was represented at that meeting by senior officers Steve Ryan, John Battams, Julie Brown, Graham Moloney and Lyn Winch, and QTU Trustee Allan Cook.

## Member action

QTU President, Steve Ryan and General Secretary, John Battams have met with Queensland ALP back-benchers in Canberra to discuss the My School website. These MPs and Senators were supportive of the need for changes to be made to the website. **Members should use the next week to communicate directly with the Deputy Prime Minister and Queensland MPs in support of changes to the My School website and protection from misuse of data. Contact details for federal MPs are available on the QTU website.**

## QTU ballot

The My School website launched by the federal government earlier this year creates significant issues for teachers and schools.

The My School website:

- (a) provides misleading information to parents;
- (b) establishes points of comparisons with "like" schools that are statistically unsound;
- (c) creates the potential for league tables that will further mislead the public and marginalise schools; and
- (d) provides "point-in-time" information that does not acknowledge the many programs operating in schools and does not provide information on the progress of students across their education.

The federal government needs to make changes to the website to ensure that it reflects the true nature of schools and to introduce legislation to prevent the misuse of the data in the creation of league tables.

Authorised by:

John Battams  
**General Secretary**