

TO: QTU REPRESENTATIVES

(Please ensure that the Principal and each QTU Rep receives a copy of this Newsflash)

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

Agreement reached to settle NAPLAN/My School dispute – moratorium lifted

Agreement has been reached between the Australian Education Union (AEU) and the Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Education Minister, Julia Gillard in relation to a process to improve the My School website. The QTU took a strong leadership role in negotiations.

This process involves the establishment of a working party under the auspices of ACARA (Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority) as requested by the AEU.

Union representation through the AEU is guaranteed on this working party.

Improvements to the My School website will be in line with a number of principles, including:

- there should be effective assessment and reporting of student achievement;
- the data should provide comparable national reporting;
- educational disadvantage must be addressed; and
- the misuse of student performance data, including simplistic league tables should be opposed.

A successful campaign

Following negotiations, the Deputy Prime Minister last night wrote to the AEU proposing that ACARA establish a working party – including AEU involvement – to look at additional improvements to the My School website and protections against the misuse of student performance data, including simplistic league tables.

This proposal is a significant shift in the position of the Deputy Prime Minister and has only been achieved through the strong commitment of members to this campaign.

Support for teacher unions from principal associations and parent groups, was integral to our success.

Significantly, teacher unions have won confirmation that they should always have a place at the table when matters of professional and industrial significance are determined.

Acceptance of government offer

After numerous meetings of various AEU forums over the past week, the AEU Executive decided this morning to accept the settlement offer. The special meeting of the QTU Executive held on Tuesday, 4 May 2010 had authorised QTU senior officers and delegates to the AEU Executive to accept a proposal along these lines.

The NAPLAN tests 2010

The moratorium on the 2010 NAPLAN tests and the QTU directive are hereby lifted.

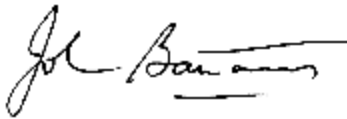
The QTU understands that most schools will proceed with the NAPLAN tests as scheduled on 11-13 May 2010. Schools that believe that they require a week's delay can be accommodated and should request this delay through the office of Deputy Director-General Lyn McKenzie.

Acknowledgement of member support

Thank you to all QTU members who have remained strong in their resolve to support the moratorium on the implementation of the NAPLAN tests. The QTU understands that this resolution would not have been possible without significant member support.

The QTU wishes to specifically acknowledge the strong resolve of principals to support the moratorium, despite being placed under significant pressure from department officials to ignore the QTU directive.

Authorised by:



John Battams
General Secretary

**PLEASE NOTE: All NAPLAN meetings scheduled
for this afternoon have been cancelled.**