

Friday, 2 February 2024

## Teachers Suspend Stop Work Action

Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) members at Biloela, North Rockhampton and Sarina State High Schools have voted to suspend stop-work action planned for next week.

Negotiations over the ongoing teacher shortage have been intensive, but the QTU has now received commitments from the Queensland Department of Education (DoE) that it will negotiate real attraction and retention outcomes for our members while fully staffing the three schools.

The proposed one-hour action had been triggered by ongoing teacher shortages in the schools, with up to 11 teaching positions vacant at the beginning of the 2024 school year.

As an act of good faith, the QTU members have agreed to suspend stop-work action for three months, while they and their union work with the DoE to find tangible and sustainable solutions to chronic understaffing.

QTU President Cresta Richardson said solutions needed to address a range of issues, including housing, teacher mobility, and attraction and retention incentives.

"To address the significant impacts on education delivery, working conditions and psychosocial health being experienced by our members in these schools, DoE also must continue to fully staff each school." Ms Richardson said.

Ms Richardson said the QTU and its members thanked the local school communities for their support.

"Parents and caregivers have shown they understand that teaching conditions equal students' learning conditions, and that their school leaders and teachers deserve more support from DoE and the Queensland Government."

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