

TO: QTU MEMBERS

# Time to take action for conditions and salaries

Despite commencing negotiations with the Queensland Government in early February, there has been very little progress towards reaching an agreement for improvements in members conditions and salaries.

With the current agreement reaching its nominal expiry date at the end of June, the Queensland Government has just under five weeks to make an offer that will achieve a revised classification structure and salaries for promotional positions, work toward addressing the issue of gender employment inequity, improve conditions to address workload, and provide salary increases that ensure that Queensland's teachers and school leaders are paid at levels at least comparable to their interstate colleagues.

In response to the slow progress of negotiations, on Saturday 25 May QTU State Council determined to ballot members on statewide industrial action.

Commencing **Monday 3 June**, members will have the opportunity to participate in workplace meetings and workplace ballots regarding their support for a 24-hour strike on a date to be determined.

Details of the process for conducting the ballot will be sent to Union Reps this week.

Supply teachers and temporary teachers who are not currently at a workplace can participate in the ballot online.

State Council determined that the triggers for the 24-hour strike would be the absence of an acceptable offer that addresses ALL OF THE FOLLOWING core elements of the QTU claim:

- a new classification structure and salaries for promotional positions
- factors to mitigate increasing workloads
- processes to address gender employment inequity
- salaries that achieve inter-system, inter-state comparability and address the increasing cost of living.

Want to know more about the current progress of negotiations for improved conditions and salaries? Don't forget to join the hundreds of members attending area meetings this week. For more information about an area meeting near you, check the QTU Facebook page or the [QTU website](#).

## Special membership offer

Only financial members of the QTU can participate in workplace ballots for industrial action or the current area meetings. Know of someone who wants to join their colleagues in campaigning for improved conditions and salaries? Then invite them to [join](#) the QTU. The current offer enables them to join the Union for half the annual fee and be involved in the campaign. Why not suggest that they become part of the Union that has been the democratic voice of teachers and school leaders for 130 years?

## NAPLAN Online

The QTU welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education that she will be seeking a delay of the full implementation of NAPLAN Online, scheduled to occur in 2020, when she meets with all state and territory Ministers later this month.

QTU State Council on Saturday considered the differing experiences of students in schools across Queensland regarding the failure of the NAPLAN Online platform. The QTU does not support the option for affected students to re-sit the test.

The QTU believes that not only is a delay to NAPLAN Online implementation necessary, a full and comprehensive review of NAPLAN needs to be undertaken, at a national level, not simply a review of the technical administration of the test.

It is clear that the validity of the test data has been compromised and the test itself no longer serves its original purpose.

## Changes to QSuper Accumulation income protection insurance waiting periods

The QTU has been informed that the QSuper Board has decided to change the income protection (IP) insurance product for Accumulation members. The QTU understands that QSuper has decided to make the following changes effective from 1 July to avoid significant premium increases to the current IP insurance product with a 14-day waiting period:

- a change in the default income protection waiting period to 90 (calendar) days or accrued sick leave, whichever is greater
- a reduction in the default income protection benefit period from three to two years.

Please note that these changes **do not apply** to income protection insurance for Defined benefit members.

QSuper is currently communicating with all Accumulation account members advising of the changes and each member's change in premium and waiting period.

### QTU advice

The QTU is advising QSuper Accumulation members to review their income protection insurance as a priority to ensure they have a waiting period that best suits their needs, as there are shorter periods than the default 90 days. The QTU is also advising members to consider occupationally rating their insurance as this may result in lower premiums for most QTU members.

Further information and advice about these insurance changes can be found on the [QTU website](#).

### Contact QSuper

QTU members who have questions about these insurance changes should contact QSuper by phone on 1300 360 750 or by [email](#) in the first instance.

QSuper members can make changes to their insurance policies, e.g. undertaking occupational rating, by logging into their [online account](#).

## National Reconciliation Week

This week is National Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The dates for NRW remain the same each year: 27 May to 3 June, marking two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision, which saw the concept of terra nullius overturned. The theme for this year's NRW is Grounded in Truth Walk together with Courage. More information about National Reconciliation Week can be found on the [QTU website](#).

## ANTaR Qld fundraiser screening – Backtrack Boys

ANTaR Qld invites you to join them for a fundraiser screening of "Backtrack Boys" - wild boys and the dogs that tame them. This is a special movie benefit night for the education, policy and advocacy work of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation in Queensland (ANTaR Qld). Backtrack Boys is a powerful documentary concerning youth justice reform in the Armidale district. Special guest is Mr Mick Gooda (a Gangula man), respected leader among first Australians. Please click the [link](#) for more information.

**When:** Sunday 2 June - 5.30pm for 6pm start | **Where:** All Hallows Theatre, Dodge Lane, Fortitude Valley | **Cost:** \$33, concession \$25 | **Tickets:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BBWWX>

Authorised by:

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