

Branch Out

News from the Federal Office
June 2013



IEU delegates learned about Gonski and where it puts us in September, at our National Officers Forum in Wollongong.

Page 2

Our SA Office received a visit from union and environmental activist Jack Munday.

Page 3

Our QLD office has conducted their first demonstration against the Newman LNP Government's extreme legislation threatening our union's ability to speak out on important matters.

Page 4

There's no such thing as Gonski...

The first thing IEU employers need to know about the Federal Government's funding legislation, is that there is no such thing as Gonski. Presenting at our recent forum, Federal Secretary Chris Watt explained how the "gonski" funding arrangements fall short of the initial vision.

FEDERAL Secretary Chris Watt warns that while new funding legislation does not signal complete ruin for independent schools, the model proposed looks nothing like Gonski.

At our recent IEU National Officers Forum he said: "There is a discrepancy between what Gonski advocated, and what the Federal Government is offering."

Mr Watt said the proposed loadings for disadvantage were not reflective of what it cost in real terms to educate disadvantaged kids. He said the resource standard was currently \$9271 for primary students and \$12,193 for secondary students, and that the funding model was essentially a backwards calculation for what the Government was prepared to spend.

"It appears that the proposed model, currently touted as "Gonski" for political purposes, is not reflective of the recommendations by (David Gonski) to address a conspicuous gap in opportunity and replenish disadvantage in Australian education."

What is being proposed?

- annual teaching plans
- individual learning plans for every student
- plans for annual school improvement
- increased reporting requirements
- better performing teachers
- increased school autonomy

"If you pair annual reviews with better performing teachers, our union could plausibly perceive a threat to job security." Chris Watt

[Continued Page 2...](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

IEU bases submission to NAPLAN senate inquiry on member survey

An IEU survey of over 2500 members has received a hearty reception from mainstream media, with a recent Sydney Morning Herald article highlighting findings from our union's submission to a senate inquiry into the effectiveness of NAPLAN testing.

Speaking to Radio Adelaide today Federal Secretary Chris Watt said despite repeated Government warnings that the tests are merely a diagnostic tool for teachers, our union had tracked a doubling of the classroom time devoted to test preparation over the last two years.

“Either it is a waste of time or in fact our teachers know that we can prepare for it and get students up-skilled through test preparation,” **Chris Watt**

“We have people from senior bodies like ACARA saying preparation is waste of time. Either it is a waste of time or in fact our teachers know that we can prepare for it and get students up-skilled through test preparation, and it seems there is more and more pressure to do so.”

Our survey showed that the amount of time spent by members preparing year 3 students for NAPLAN tests had risen to an average of 31 hours, or the equivalent of more than a week, a significant rise since our last online survey in 2010.

The findings of the survey come in conjunction with our "Education Issues 2013" survey which showed that almost 60 per cent of teachers were very concerned about workload requirements associated with individual learning plans for every student as part of the Federal Government's National Plan for School Improvement.

The Senate inquiry was commissioned in response to concerns about pressure placed on students and the effects of publishing test results on the My School website.

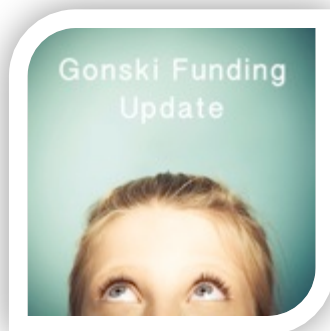
The federal Coalition has pledged a review of the website if elected in September.

From Page 1...

So, what is on the table?

There is an increase in funding for indexation. In theory, the worst that any school can do is to receive 3 per cent indexation on what it is currently getting. This is not a bad result, according to our Federal Secretary.

“Our union needs to now focus on the year ahead. Currently we are looking at a situation next year where vital teaching resources will be less available. “These are the resources provided centrally by organisations like the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools such as language coaching, speech therapy and reading recovery. Employers need to start asking what the funding arrangements mean, in real terms, for schools next year.



“Will the new funding arrangements happen? Yes - they will put it though. Is that a bad deal for our members? No. But it's not a revolution. It's not nirvana. And where does this put us? Not in the camp of supporting the liberal party.” Dick Shearman

Who are we supporting in September?

Our union will not campaign candidates at the September federal election based on Gonski. Here's what Federal President Dick Shearman says:

“As a non-affiliated union it is not our role to get caught up in the politics of Gonski. Instead, we ask, does it deliver for our members? Does it deliver job security?

“There is no Gonski. What there is, is a funding model that is being called Gonski for political reasons. What we are trying to do now is find out what is replacing Gonski, and ask does it deliver the best possible outcome for our members?

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

National Forum Guest Speaker Nick Moraitis gives The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald a lifespan of two years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA The SA branch recently welcomed guest speaker Jack Munday at their May 2013 Dinner. Jack Munday led the 1970s NSW Builders' Labourers Federation in the famous Green Ban Movement, successfully campaigning to protect natural bushland in Sydney from excessive development. He was instrumental in subsiding hostility towards unions and bringing people from all walks of life together by demonstrating a kind of union activism that went beyond normal industrial unionism. Current Chair of the Historic Houses Trust NSW, Jack Munday demonstrates the wider obligations that unions have to their communities.



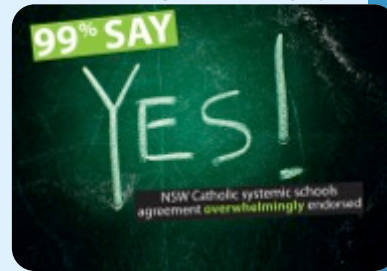
NEW SOUTH WALES The popularity of free student membership continues to grow, with university orientation days providing a great opportunity to share the benefits of membership. To compliment student sign-up, this branch celebrates the

“You mean we get to join for free?”

inaugural publication of Starting Strong, an e-bulletin for student members. Top stories for Issue One included a membership benefits summary, induction program and career resilience articles and campaign news. While students can join for free, our union saves money by providing access to e-versions of IEU publications only.

NSW continues to experiment with paid Facebook ads. A ‘99% Say Yes’ graphic advertising the 2.5% pay increase netted more than 11,000 views, 102 likes and 20 new followers.

Another ad for the Sydney May Day Parade received more than 10,000 Facebook views, 28 likes and six new followers. At \$30 per ad, it's not a bad investment.



Death of the newspaper

National IEU Forum Guest Speaker Nick Moraitis gives The Age and the

Sydney Morning Herald a lifespan of two more years...tops. Tabloids are allowed slightly longer, he says, given its older readership is less likely to move online. What does this mean for us at the IEU? How relevant is the mainstream media today? How do we best connect with our members if not through metropolitan newspapers? Channeling our own lines of communication has never been more important. Have you any ideas for IEU communications? How about an iPhone app? Video blogs for members?

The Federal Office will next month publish a 2013 Media Guide, summarising new communications techniques and ideas to come out of our recent National Officers Forum in Wollongong.



Look out for the 2013 Media Guide, a review of themes and ideas arising from media electives at the 2013 National Officer Forum.

SAVE YOUR SAY

QLD UNIONS RALLY TOGETHER

Unions are campaigning against the Newman LNP Government's plans to introduce unprecedented and extreme legislation, which threatens democracy and free speech in Queensland. The state government's proposed 'Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations' Bill will severely impede the ability of unions and their members to speak out on important issues such as the government's attack on wages, conditions and employment security and the planned privatisation of public services and the sale of community owned assets. Under proposed legislation, registered industrial organisations such as unions are required to poll members at an estimated cost of \$2 per member through the Queensland Electoral Commission. This poll will be required for campaign expenditure of more than \$10,000 on each and every campaign on a "political matter". The legislation also imposes detailed financial reporting requirements on elected union representatives and the 10 highest paid union staff in each union - regardless of their staff numbers - mandating publication of their financial interests and the financial interests of their dependents.

The Bill will severely impede the ability of unions and their members to speak out on important issues such as the government's attack on wages, conditions and employment security

MORE QLD/NT NEWS...

Record numbers turned out for the Labour Day march in Brisbane, despite the public holiday being moved by the government without consultation. Members marched under the IEUA-QNT banner to celebrate enhancements to working conditions achieved by their collective strength. QLD members rallied against proposed changes to workers' compensation laws.



Union members gathered at a silent protest outside Parliament House, sending a clear message that the proposed legislation is unacceptable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The new Teacher Registration Board in WA and changing requirements for registration, has seen our Western Australia branch offer new Professional Learning for members. The two new seminars are proving extremely popular, and there are two more on the way including "Mentored Transition to Registered Teacher" and "Cyber Savvy". These seminars provide an opportunity for Teachers to become familiar with new processes and renew their understanding of the Professional Standards for Teachers. Seminars count towards Professional Learning hours.

