

JOIN WITH US FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

Dear Colleague

2008 is going to be a challenging year for all employees in Catholic Education. The beginning of this year sees most staff returning to their schools with ever increasing demands placed on them through greater parental expectations, accountability requirements and general workload pressures, yet at the same time being the lowest paid education workers in the country. Many staff have in fact not had a wage increase since October 2006. This is not a situation that is sustainable, either for individuals or for the profession as a whole.

It is now just over 10 years since VIEU members took action to win the fight to ensure that you receive the same wages at the same time as your colleagues in the government sector, something the Catholic employers said was not going to be possible. In 2008 VIEU members are again fighting for a just wages outcome, yet the State government has only offered a 3.25% per annum increase.

We must send a strong message to both the State government and the Catholic employers that to ensure the future of the profession and to provide quality education we need a better outcome. It is important to note that every enforceable condition of employment in Catholic Education has been fought for and won by the action of VIEU members. Our success in the current campaign will depend on the commitment of the membership and the strength of the message that we can send to both the Catholic employers and the State government.

Only VIEU members can make a difference; let YOUR membership make a difference to VIEU. Don't let your colleagues fight for YOUR future on their own. Play your part and join us.

What can you do?

- Fill out the attached membership form and send it off today
- Talk to your VIEU Sub-branch Rep and go along to a meeting
- Find out more about the other benefits of VIEU membership, visit www.vieu.org.au
- Send a strong message to the State government that a 3.25% wages offer is not good enough by supporting the political protest on March 7

I invite you to join VIEU and campaign with us for the future of our profession.

Yours sincerely



Debra James
General Secretary

Authorised by Debra James, General Secretary, Victorian Independent Education Union