

Thursday 21 February
Email to School Officer and School Services Officer members

Dear Member

I am writing to you about the Protest Action planned for 7 March. You are no doubt aware that the purpose of this action is to protest at the failure of the Brumby Government to move on its wages offer for teachers of 3.25% per annum. School Officers and Schools Services Officers are asking about the impact on this wages campaign for them and whether or not they should participate in the protest.

The short answer to those questions is that the campaign does have a direct impact on your wages and yes, you are urged to join in the protest!

VIEU is currently bargaining with Catholic employing authorities for wage increases and improved conditions **for all staff** in Catholic schools. In the government sector the current bargaining round, which has been going since last March, is for teachers and principal class employees only. The negotiations for non-teaching staff in that sector usually come after the teachers' agreement but the increase is generally the same or similar.

In Catholic schools VIEU negotiates for School Officers and Schools Services Officers at the same time and in the same agreement as teachers and principals and the wage increases achieved and improvements to conditions apply equally to all staff. In this way we have achieved common conditions across all staff. We firmly believe, and history has shown, that we are stronger together.

This current protest against the State Government is directed at the failure of the Brumby Government to make a satisfactory offer on teachers' wages. It is important that we stand together and send a clear and very public message to the Premier that this attitude on wages is not sustainable for our schools in being able to attract, recruit and retain the best and brightest staff.

I trust that your VIEU Rep is keeping you, like other members at your school, informed on developments as they occur. I refer you also to the letter I wrote to you at home earlier this month. Momentum for this protest is growing and I look forward to standing side by side with you at Dallas Brooks Hall and outside Parliament House so that together we can achieve wage justice for all staff in schools.

In unity

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