

NTPS TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS' BULLETIN 10/2013

AEU-NT Industrial Action - 4 hour Work Stoppages

Following the industrial action on Tuesday 19 November I received a number of emails from teachers advising me that they had returned to work and resumed normal duties. The information provided in this bulletin is in response to those teachers and to teachers in the Darwin and Palmerston region who intend to engage in action on Wednesday 27 November 2013.

I acknowledge the action taken by AEU-NT members is protected action under the *Fair Work Act* (the Act) and respect the right of AEU-NT members to participate and engage in industrial action. Whilst I do not agree with the action taken, I have not and will not prevent teachers who are eligible to participate in protected action.

The Act provides, and in some circumstances requires, the employer to respond to industrial action. The response I took and the notice I provided are lawful under the Act.

As explained in the notice provided to AEU-NT members on 18 November 2013 I took this action primarily because of the significant impact on educational programs and because it resulted in some school closures. In forming my response I sought to minimise the disruption to students and parents.

The AEU-NT and its members were advised on 18 November that AEU-NT members who participated in the action were not required to return to work and would not be paid for the day. A further notice was provided to teachers who returned to school confirming this would be the case. In accordance of those notices teachers who participated in the action on 19 November 2013 will not be paid for the day.

Union members are able to take industrial action as is their right. I will continue to respond to any action that adversely impacts on delivering educational programs, attendance rates of students or action that closes schools. Union members who participate in the proposed 4 hours stoppage on 27 November 2013 should be aware that I will not accept the performance of any work for the day and that a full day's pay will be deducted.

Teachers and Educators should also be aware that I am not in a position to address concerns you may have around teacher numbers or other resourcing issues. They are decisions for the government. As such there are other more appropriate avenues which the unions can take to lobby the government for policy change which do not disrupt the learning of students or put pressure on parents.

My responsibility is to negotiate a new enterprise agreement on pay and conditions. I genuinely wish to progress the enterprise bargaining process to ensure teachers can benefit from a salary increase afforded to others across the sector. Further industrial action will continue to delay this unnecessarily.

More Information

To keep you informed the OCPE has a webpage dedicated to enterprise agreement negotiations under the [Enterprise Agreement Negotiation Updates](#) page.

The website will be updated regularly with the latest information on negotiations, including bulletins, information sheets and other material.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

KEN SIMPSON
21 November 2013