Employers guarantee back pay

EB7 negotiations continued in good faith yesterday with a joint Religious Institute and Diocesan schools Single Bargaining Unit meeting.

Both employer representatives and union representatives continued to make concessions and believe an agreement is in sight.

Employers have offered to remove the 19 October 2012 deadline and have guaranteed to pay the back pay of wage increases for all school-based staff.

Union representatives have agreed to make a recommendation to their members to suspend the protected industrial action involving partial work bans from the commencement of Term 4, 2012.

This follows on from the significant concessions made by employers on a number of key non-wage claims during the SBU meetings on 11 and 12 September 2012.

Employers demonstrate a clear commitment to finalising EB negotiations

Employers confirmed the fair and responsible wage offer of 2.7% in the light of the continuing funding uncertainty and the current economic climate.

Employers are keen to deliver back pay before Christmas. In-principle agreement in October 2012 will enable employers to make these payments.

Employers believe the time has now come for union representatives and school-based employees, to give credence to the significant concessions made by employers and to recognise the fair and responsible nature of the wage offer.

The fundamental charter of a Catholic school employer is to ensure the fair and responsible stewardship of Catholic schools. On this occasion this means that Catholic school employers cannot agree to a higher wage offer.

Catholic school employers will continue to negotiate in good faith in an attempt to resolve the outstanding issues regarding wages.

The next scheduled Single Bargaining Unit meeting is scheduled for Monday 15 October 2012