We are pleased to advise that employing authorities and employee representatives have reached agreement on the content of the proposed Enterprise Bargaining (EB7) Agreement. Employing authorities acknowledge the very important work undertaken by union officers to bring this aspect of the enterprise bargaining process to a conclusion. The efforts of employer and employee representatives will bring significant benefits to employees in Queensland Catholic schools, as well as fair and responsible wage outcomes given the economic climate in which we all find ourselves.

**Ballot Conducted within the Month**

The finalised text now means that the proposed Agreement can be put to a ballot of employees before the end of November. Employing authorities have been working to prepare for all the necessary technical aspects of the EB7 ballot. There are also a number of legal and technical requirements that need to be met before Fair Work Australia is able to approve the proposed Agreement.

As advised in earlier briefings, the payment of the wage increase will be made from the first full pay period after the receipt of results from a ballot of employees where the majority of those who vote accept the proposed Agreement. It is intended that the ballot will open on Thursday 22 November and close at 3 pm on Friday 23 November 2012. This is the earliest date the ballot can be conducted to meet legal requirements.

Over the coming days you will receive information about the proposed Agreement and the ballot process and we would ask you to consider this important information.