5.3 Industrial Action in Catholic Schools and Support for IEU Members

On behalf of the Australian Education Union ACT Branch, representing 3400 educators in ACT public schools and CIT, I offer you solidarity and support for today's important industrial action. As workers and as educators, you are entitled to respect from your employer and not insult. The take-it-or-leave-it offer from your employer is an insult. As you know, it threatens to strip away crucial workload protections, to dismantle the logical hierarchical structures in schools, to isolate principals and shift all responsibility and blame on to their shoulders. We have been appalled to hear that your sick leave, lunch breaks and even weekends are under attack. Perhaps your reactionary employers don't value time with families and work-life balance but we all rightly do. This insulting position should be opposed for as long as it takes. In the end you will win, but only if you hold your nerve and stick together. I understand that the vast majority but not all of your colleagues are with you today. You must commit to encouraging all of your colleagues in all of your schools to get behind the action as soon as possible. Division is undermining, but united you will be unstoppable. We are ready and willing to assist wherever possible.