

# What parents need to know about educator concerns

Tasmanian Teachers, Principals and Support Staff are negotiating new employment agreements with the State Government. These agreements govern educator pay and conditions and, as you'd know, teacher working conditions are your child's learning conditions.

**To deliver quality education for all students, this is what Teachers, Principals and Support Staff urgently need:**



**Smaller class sizes** – caps on class sizes so teachers and support staff can have more one-on-one time with students. Classes of more than 30 are not uncommon in our schools and colleges.



**More time for lesson planning** – teachers are swamped by paperwork and administrative tasks, leaving them less and less time to plan and prepare lessons. We need teachers focused on teaching and learning.



**More support for Principals** – they're under extreme stress working 60-hour weeks, as well as working weekends and through the school holidays. It's not healthy nor sustainable and they need to be focused on improving teaching and learning and engaging with their school community.

**Regional, rural and remote schools** – these schools face unique challenges because of distance and they need:

- Teachers with better access to professional learning (training)
- Incentives to attract and retain educators in regional areas.



**More support for young teachers** – a shocking 50% of new teachers quit because of excessive workloads and the complex demands of the job. They need support and mentoring at the beginning of their career.



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**Competitive salary for educators**– the Government needs to value educators and offer a competitive salary so we can recruit and retain the best and brightest to teach our children.

- Premier Will Hodgman says he wants to “lead the nation in education” but he is offering educators just a 2% pay rise. This means our most experienced teachers will remain the lowest paid in Australia.
- Support Staff, many of whom are Teacher Assistants, earn as little as \$25,000 a year because they are stood down without pay during school holidays. Some are even forced onto Centrelink payments during the term break. For these educators we’re asking for a modest 3% pay rise but the government has rejected this.



## **Why educators are taking action?**

Children only get one chance at an education and we believe these changes are urgent and cannot wait. Teachers, Principals and Support Staff around Tasmania have been taking action such as stop work meetings because the government refuses to act and we’ve run out of other options. We acknowledge that some of these actions cause inconvenience, but we hope you agree that quality education is worth standing up for.

To help deliver a quality education for Tasmanian children visit:  
**[friendsofpubliceducation.org.au](http://friendsofpubliceducation.org.au)**

