

Media Release: Peninsula Grammar Dispute - 13 May

On Monday, the IEU filed a dispute over the standing-down of around 40 staff at Peninsula Grammar. The following day, the school announced a restructure which would appear to be likely to result in between 10 and 15 of the stood-down staff being made redundant. Because these staff are not covered by an EBA, redundancy pay would be at the bare-bones National Employment Standards minimum – far below the industry standard. The school intends to make a final decision on these redundancies this week following a rushed and clearly inadequate ‘consultation period’. Staff found out about the “restructure” on Tuesday afternoon, were pulled into meetings on Wednesday and have no real opportunity to engage in any consultation before the school wields the axe on Friday.

IEU General Secretary Deb James said “This employer, when challenged over the legitimacy of staff stand-downs, has responded by attempting to ram through redundancies with almost no consultation. We know that employees have legitimate work to do, particularly given that students will be back in the classroom in less than two weeks. This is an outrageous act being implemented with indecent haste. Why are these cuts being pushed through so quickly, and just now when the staff stood down have raised their concerns with the Fair Work Commission? This raises real questions about the values of the school – what does this punitive behaviour convey to students and the school community?”

This dispute will be heard in conciliation at the Fair Work Commission tomorrow morning. The IEU has asked for the terms of the dispute to be extended to cover the failure to adequately consult around redundancies in addition to the initial question of the legitimacy of the stand-downs.

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