

Principal 'bullied' by senior official

TIM WILLIAMS
EDUCATION REPORTER

STAFF at one of the state's toughest schools – for youths in detention and other troubled teens – are demanding a senior Education Department official be banned from its campuses because of alleged bullying.

An organisation representing school leaders says it is one of several cases of department officials bullying principals into tears and to the point where they need to take leave.

A dispute over staffing levels and class sizes at the Youth Education Centre – spread across three sites, including the Adelaide Youth Training Centre for young people in custody – has escalated into an industrial stoush.

The *Sunday Mail* has obtained three letters from Australian Education Union state president Howard Spreadbury sent this week to senior department figures.

In one letter, Mr Spreadbury told chief executive Rick Perse the official's behaviour had "led to staff being (psychologically) injured", feeling unsafe and to "fear for the wellbeing of colleagues".

The claims included "intimidatory" and "bullying" be-

haviour toward the principal "so that he will accept unworkable budgets that breach the Enterprise Agreement 2016", and "negative and inappropriate comments about other leaders at the school".

The union alleges the official tried to impose staffing changes they did not have power to implement. It has demanded they do not visit Youth Education Centre sites and not manage or contact any staff.

The *Sunday Mail* has been told that after staff rejected the official's proposals, an abusive phone call was received by the principal, attacking him and other staff. The principal has taken sick leave.

SA State School Leaders Association chief executive John Gregory said it was not an isolated case. "If a principal in a school did this (to their staff) they would be up for investigation," he said. A department spokeswoman said it "takes the safety and wellbeing of its workforce seriously and constructively works to resolve any workplace issues".

Mr Spreadbury said the leaking of his correspondence was "unhelpful" and potentially "very, very damaging" to the hopes of resolving a "difficult and sensitive situation".



SUN SMARTS: Gilles Street Primary School children still slip, slop, slap during winter.

Far better not play

TIM WILLIAMS

SCHOOLS are being urged to slip, slop, slap, seek and slide – despite the best part of a month of winter remaining.

The Cancer Council says UV levels rise from August onwards, putting students and staff at risk of skin damage.

As the *Sunday Mail* revealed in January, the

YouTube video is Daddy of them all