

College staff offered AWAs

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STAFF at the Hunter's Australian Technical College are being offered Australian Workplace Agreements tied to performance bonuses.

The Independent Education Union has urged its members to reject the offers, which college management is offering this week.

College chairman Jim Gauld defended the college's right to make the offers on the basis of its funding agreement.

"The Australian Technical College Hunter has a funding agreement with the Federal Government which includes the condition that employees have access to performance pay and all staff are offered an Australian Workplace Agreement," he said.

"There is no obligation on

■ ACTING Prime Minister Julia Gillard said she would speak to a federal agency about its attempts to employ staff on Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) in defiance of a directive.

The Australian Building and Construction Commission is advertising a new executive position with the applicant being offered an AWA, it was reported yesterday.

AAP

the part of the employee to accept an Australian Workplace Agreement and the college is certainly not forcing any employee to sign an Australian Workplace Agreement."

IEU general secretary Dick Shearman said the union was disappointed the college had pursued AWAs after the federal election.

"Signing the proposed AWA is linked directly to a bonus-style payment. Those employees who remain on the employer collective agreement cannot access this bonus," he said.

"However the union understands that all teaching employees were advised that they had successfully undergone appraisal."

The \$20 million college, which has campuses at Maitland, Singleton and Newcastle, was one of 28 Australian Technical Colleges established by the Howard government since the federal 2004 election.

Australian Technical College management discussed the college's future with the Department of Education, Science and Training on Tuesday.

"Our contract with the Government is being honoured and it's business as usual," Mr Gauld said.