

PROMOTING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE ACT

The AEU – ACT Branch recognises the need to promote the intrinsic value of public education to the broader ACT community. In doing so it will seek to highlight the role public education plays:

- in creating a cohesive society within our nation;
- in providing equal opportunity to quality education for all students, regardless of their race, religious belief, gender, ethnic origin or social status.;
- in maintaining universal access to free and secular education;
- in developing the unique potential of each student so that they may contribute their skills constructively to our community.

In promoting public education the AEU – ACT Branch will:

- maintain a strong alliance with all community groups within the ACT which support public education;
- lobby both the ACT and Federal Governments for appropriate levels of funding which will ensure the effective operation of the ACT public education system;
- Carefully distinguish between the role public schools and TAFE play in our community compared with the role of private schools;
- advocate for a fair funding system by both the ACT and Federal Governments that removes any inequitable distribution of monies to private schools;
- support any policies/actions which enable the effective, collaborative use of resources and delivery of programs within the ACT public education system;
- oppose any attempt by the Department or Government to adopt or implement a redistribution program involving the transfer of resources from one sector to another as such a program:
 - (a) disregards the well being of the ACT public education system,
 - (b) would result in a decline in the quality of educational services offered to students in the ACT, and
 - (c) would erode the working conditions of teachers;
- support the prohibition of compulsory religious instruction of any kind in ACT public schools;
- encourage and assist through a variety of means, all members to participate in a range of community and industrial activities as necessary;
- support the creation of an agreed professional board/authority for teachers;
- undertake research as necessary to ascertain issues of significance for the public education system and disseminate those results when appropriate;
- undertake media campaigns as necessary;
- lobby all Federal and ACT politicians to ensure that advocacy of the ACT public education system becomes a matter of specific party policy and that this policy is implemented whenever the party is in government.