

UNION STRUCTURES

The Australian Education Union in the ACT is the union to which teachers and Schools Services Officers employed within the government sector may belong.

Each member is attached to a workplace Sub-Branch which operates to promote the objects of our Union and in particular, the professional and industrial interests of the members of the Sub-Branch.

Branch Executive:

The Branch Executive members are also members of the Branch Council. The composition of Branch Executive is as follows [Rule 23 Federal Branch Rules]:

- A. *The Branch Executive shall consist of:*
 - [a] The Branch Secretary and Branch President who shall be elected by and from financial members.*
 - [b] Two Branch Vice Presidents [Schools Sector] who shall be elected by and from financial members allocated to Sub-Branches in the Schools Sector.*
 - [c] One Branch Vice President [TAFE Sector] who shall be elected by and from financial members allocated to TAFE Sub-Branches.*
 - [d] Eight representatives elected by and from financial members other than members allocated to TAFE Sub-Branches and the ACT Preschool Sub-Branches.*
 - [e] One representative [or an alternate representative who shall be entitled to attend Branch Executive in the absence of the representative] elected by and from financial members allocated to TAFE Sub-Branches.*
 - [f] One representative [or an alternate representative who shall be entitled to attend Branch Executive in the absence of the representative] elected by and from financial members allocated to ACT Preschool Sub-Branches.*
- B. *The Branch Secretary shall be elected in accordance with Rule 6 mutatis mutandis for a term of two years commencing on 1 January.*
- C. *The Branch President shall be elected in accordance with Rule 6 mutatis mutandis for a term of two years commencing on 1 January.*
- D. *[a] The three Branch Vice Presidents shall be elected in accordance with Rule 6 mutatis mutandis.*
[b] The term of office of the three Branch Vice Presidents shall be two years.
- E. *The remaining representatives on Branch Executive shall be elected for a term of two years commencing on 1 July.*
- F. *In the event of an election for the position of Branch Secretary and Branch President being necessary, the Branch Executive shall, between the period of close of nominations and the issuing of ballot papers, provide each candidate at no cost facilities to publish and distribute to all Sub-Branches and places of work a maximum of three posters of a maximum size of 30cms x 42 cms with printing and photographs as determined by each candidate on one side only, and also call two meetings of members on suitable days at suitable times for the purpose of allowing members to meet and question candidates for these positions.*

The Branch Executive meets normally on a fortnightly basis and has the responsibility of managing the Union's affairs subject to the authority of the Branch Council.

Union Officers/Staff:

The Chief Executive Officer of our Union is the Branch Secretary who works with a team of Officers/Staff in the following positions [as at December 2008]:

Branch Secretary	<i>Penny Gilmour</i>
Assistant to the Secretary [Industrial]	<i>Peter Malone</i>
Assistant to the Secretary [Professional]	<i>Cathy Smith</i>
Schools Organisers:	<i>Bill Book</i>
CIT Organiser:	<i>Mike Fitzgerald</i>
Executive Officer	<i>Sue Billington</i>
Receptionist/Admin Officer	<i>Janet Anderson</i>
Membership Officer	<i>Michelle Kirby</i>
Finance Officer	<i>Joelle Dulac</i>

Branch Council:

The Branch Council meets normally on a monthly basis and contains a Councillor for every twenty financial members of a Sub-Branch or part thereof. Alternate Councillors to Branch Council may also be elected on the same basis as the Councillors. The Branch Council has as its responsibility the management of our Union's business.

Branch TAFE Council:

The ACT Branch also operates a Branch TAFE Council on which each TAFE Sub-Branch is represented. It has the responsibility of protecting the interests of TAFE members and advising the Branch Secretary, Executive and Council on TAFE specific matters. The TAFE Council is chaired by the TAFE Vice President who also sits on the National TAFE Division Executive of the AEU. The TAFE Division determines policy affecting TAFE members at the national level.

Sub-Branch Executive:

The Sub-Branches elect annually a Sub-Branch President, Deputy President and Secretary to run the affairs of the workplace Sub-Branch. Also elected from each Sub-Branch are the members who represent their workplace on the Branch Council.

Union Committees:

Our Union also operates a number of specific issues committees that can be ongoing, such as the Women's Committee, or are issue specific. These meet for limited periods.

The AEU also has representation on Departmental committees which change from time to time. All of these committees are advertised annually or biannually each school year through *The ACT Teacher*, the publication of the ACT Branch.

AEU Federal Representation:

Every two years the Branch Council elects one of its members to sit on the Federal Executive of the AEU to represent members in the ACT.

The Federal Executive meets bimonthly and directs the national affairs of the Union.

The ACT is also entitled to two positions at the Annual Federal Conference of the AEU. These positions are elected by the membership on a two yearly basis. The Federal Conference has the responsibility for directing the national affairs of the Union and particularly the policy making for each year.

Nationally, each State has a Federally registered AEU Branch but also maintains a State registered union generally referred to as an associated body. The Northern Territory and the ACT do not require associate bodies. Members of associated unions are also members of the State Branches of the AEU.