

Value of AEU Membership

It is an important fact that your teaching career will be heavily influenced by the efforts of, and the priorities set, by the membership of the Australian Education Union.

The AEU provides you with individual protection:

The AEU provides advice to members in relation to all aspects of your employment including your salary, leave and other entitlements. We provide assistance with settling workplace disputes and advise members on Occupational Health and Safety issues. We arrange for legal and financial advice for those cases that prove to be too complex or are being heard in legal jurisdictions. Our Union is called upon to assist members to resolve issues arising out of the probationary process and contract assessment. We also work as advocates for members confronted with allegations by students, parents and colleagues. Contact our Organisers with your queries in regard to work issues and your rights as workers in the ACT public education system.

The AEU has a proven track record of effectively gaining for members their correct entitlements and defending their rights.

The AEU and working conditions:

The vast majority of teachers in the ACT public school system are members of the AEU. So when the AEU speaks out on issues, we have the strength of numbers in order to work collectively to improve conditions for all teachers.

The teaching conditions under which you are currently working result from the work and commitment of AEU members over many years. Our Union has won 15 days of additional [paid] support for teachers in their first three years in the ACT public education system. The support provides additional time for new teachers and their mentors to assist them in the settling-in period and to enhance their development as a teacher. Teachers in the ACT have the lowest face-to-face teaching hours in Australia, leaving you more time to prepare lessons and assess students' work than teachers in other States. We have also led the nation in the successful pursuit of smaller class sizes across all sectors. We work together to achieve the best outcomes in salaries and conditions.

The AEU is a professional organisation that has been actively involved in shaping the direction of public education in the ACT. For example, our members continue to be involved in the process of developing teaching standards and teacher registration.

The AEU gives you a voice:

The AEU is structured in such a manner so that ideas, comments and suggestions can pass easily from the school level through to the system level. On a regular basis, the AEU makes deputations to the Minister for Education, the Chief Executive and other senior departmental officials where issues of concern to members are raised. As individuals we are all vulnerable to the slips and trips of our working lives. Membership of the AEU is your protection against this vulnerability.

When we are all members, we all benefit.