



e-bulletin

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PH: 02 6272 7900

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Enterprise Agreement: Members' patience is being tested

On Monday 26 September, the day prior to our highly successful member rally outside the Legislative Assembly, AEU negotiators met with the Minister and made it clear what is required to solve this dispute and reach a settlement. The AEU is disappointed to report that despite the passing of more than three weeks since this meeting, a further offer to teachers in schools has not been made. One cannot help but question how serious the government is about addressing the needs of teachers in our public schools. The government has the opportunity to kill off such scepticism by acting **now**. Our teaching workforce and our community demands it.

If a further offer is not made before AEU Branch Council meets this Saturday, Council will need to consider further protected industrial action and renewed community and media engagement. Members should be aware that, despite previously accepting an invitation to attend the Council meeting this Saturday, the Minister advised late last week that he is no longer available to attend Council.

Members are reminded that the five work bans are indefinite and remain in force until a settlement is reached.

AEU Principal Project Officer: ETD obstructs essential work

In the last week of Term 3, AEU Branch Executive approved the selection of a principal member to work with each of our principals throughout Term 4 to devise a set of principles and/or model to **better recognise school complexity**. Many of our principal members expressed satisfaction that this important work would be done, and they will be disappointed to learn that ETD has refused to grant leave without pay for the selected principal to undertake this work – work that would have been wholly funded by the AEU, and benefitted both AEU and ETD in the negotiations. Sadly, the Minister has supported ETD in this refusal.

The decision is noteworthy for several reasons, including:

- This is the first time the employer has ever denied leave to an employee to take on a role with the AEU.
- The rationale for the decision – that it disrupts a school – appears to have been absent from a number of decisions lately that have seen some schools have several acting principals over a short period of time. It appears that disruption is acceptable if it suits ETD.

The AEU is now looking at contingencies so that this work can be done during Term 4.

Members will be informed of developments.

What can YOU do now?

- Observe the work bans in your workplace.
- Make sure your Councillor(s) get along to Council this Saturday.
- Keep abreast of developments through e-bulletins and Sub-Branch meetings; contact the AEU Office if you'd like an Officer to attend your Sub-Branch meeting.
- [Email ACT Legislative Assembly politicians](#) telling them why ACT Teachers need competitive salary and conditions, and what's wrong with the current offer.

PENNY GILMOUR
BRANCH SECRETARY