

In case you missed it: October 2023 AEU ACT Branch Council

October Branch Council was jam-packed full of important updates on the activity of our union. Here's a quick list of the highlights.

CIT Bargaining

CIT members have used their collective strength to drive home a historic EA offer for CIT staff. Our CIT members have recruited dozens of their colleagues to join the union, and a whopping 97% of members voted in favour of taking some form of action to get a better deal. This show of strength prompted a revised offer from CIT which was endorsed by a meeting of the AEU CIT Council just this week. Branch Council congratulated CIT members for their solidarity throughout this hard-fought battle.

Superstar sub-branches taking meaningful workload reduction action

Northside Organiser Katie Slater talked Council through some case studies of sub-branches who have taken their commitment to reduce workload very seriously. They've come up with [actions that can be taken right now](#) by your school to ensure teachers can teach, and leaders can lead. If your sub-branch needs help in taking workload reduction action, contact the AEU office. AEU organisers can help guide your sub-branch through a collaborative and cooperative process that will leave everyone better off.

Getting the detail right on systemic workload reduction

Branch Secretary Patrick Judge presented an in-depth discussion paper on workload reduction which gave dozens of recommendations for meaningful, tangible change at every site. Council voted to endorse these recommendations and called on the Education Directorate to commence their implementation immediately. This included the adoption of a unified position with the ACT Principals Association on workload reduction priorities.

Federal School Funding campaign 'For Every Child'

The AEU Federal office has been hard at work developing a national campaign to get all Australian public schools to the minimum SRS standard devised by Gonski more than a decade ago. While the ACT is the only jurisdiction to achieve 100% SRS funding, every member knows that we need so much more. Once all jurisdictions fully fund their public schools, it will be much more feasible for the ACT to lobby for additional funding for our public schools. To support our state and territory colleagues, check out a [campaign video](#) and get ready to sign a postcard coming to a sub-branch near you – which AEU representatives will deliver, personally, to Parliament House.

10-point action plan on occupational violence

Any violence at work is unacceptable and should be intolerable to an employer committed to staff safety. The AEU office helps members every week with the aftermath of violence so we know the deep impact it has. We know that we can't keep doing things the same way and expecting different results. Council voted in favour of presenting the Western Australian 10-point plan against OV to our employer and demanding a similarly strong stance on staff safety.

Motion to pay preservice teachers

Melrose sub-branch brought a motion to Council that spoke to the intense financial stress of preservice teachers undertaking practicums. It cited the latest ITE review, which found that financial hardship was a significant reason preventing students completing their teaching qualification. Councillors shared personal experiences of living in poverty as preservice teachers. Council voted for Branch leadership to commence campaigning for the employer to pay teachers undertaking compulsory placements.

Supporting school psychologists

Council noted the important contribution that school psychologists make to our schools and that this contribution was not adequately valued in the recent EA outcomes. Council voted to support the stronger advocacy of school psychologists in the lead up to and as part of the next EA bargaining round.