

**Australian Education Union - Northern Territory Branch  
Scheduled Election – E2024/70**

# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

For the election of: **Branch President (1)**

Statements submitted by candidates in accordance with AEU Rule 105A

*The contents of the statements in this document have been reproduced as received from the candidates.*

*Only the presentation has been amended for publication purposes.*

## **AYRES, Michelle** **BRANCH PRESIDENT**

As Branch President of the AEU-NT my focus has been on finding long term solutions to address the historic problems of an underfunded education system and uncompetitive wage policies that have presented barriers to teacher recruitment and student learning.

Key Achievements:

Breaking the Wage Freeze in 2022.

Securing the highest pay rises in the NT in decades, turning a 2% pa salary cap into a 12.9% rise over three years and three months, with an additional 4.7% average increase for Classroom Teachers.

Ending attendance-based funding by 2025, ensuring all school budgets will now be based on actual enrolment.

Securing 100% SRS Funding: all public school will be fully funded by 2029, which is the best funding commitment in Australia.

If re-elected I will:

Ensure the Department applies the new funding model with transparency and accountability.

Campaign to ensure teachers are valued by schools, the Department, and the community as professionals who are experts in the learning needs of their students.

Invest in our grassroots membership through stronger regional councils and sub-branch representative training.

Together, we will build a stronger future for our educators and students. I ask for your support to continue this vital work.

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## **MCCARTHY, Steve** **BRANCH PRESIDENT**

Darwin has failed to manage teacher shortages in the Territory. If Departmental Management cannot solve this problem, then our Union must demand a solution.

Our plan must be to force management to retain and recruit teachers. Money may be the only viable answer. We must grow our membership numbers and build collective strength to achieve this.

As I write there are 122 teacher vacancies on Teach in the Territory, and we only have 151 schools. The present agreement does nothing to address this catastrophe and it can only get worse if nothing changes. I will not stand idle as overworked teachers break.

The Branch Office requires systemic change into servant leadership from the present top-down model. Communication must be radically improved. Our Union must be the membership not a few elected officials. Training for school, regional, branch and health and safety reps is fundamental and needs to be reinstated and rejuvenated.

For our students, ourselves, and our community I ask for your vote. Not for self-aggrandisement, but in service of our students, our membership and our community. I offer a different style of Union leadership. I want to motivate teachers to fight for the children and families we serve.

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# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

For the election of: **Women's Officer (1)**

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## **PARKER, Emily** **WOMEN'S OFFICER**

I'm Emily and I have been an active union member for several years and have spent the last two on the branch executive, where I've gained a solid understanding of what it takes to represent and support our members. Last year I was also the proud recipient of the AEUNT delegate of the year award in recognition of my commitment to unionism in the Territory.

Unionism is something I'm very passionate about, especially when it comes to making sure everyone is treated fairly and has a voice. As Women's Officer, I want to focus on the issues that matter most to women in our union, like gender equality, work-life balance, and helping women advance in their careers.

Through my time on the branch executive, I've seen firsthand how important it is to have someone who listens and takes action. I'm committed to being that person—someone who is approachable, listens to your concerns, and fights for your rights.

I believe in building a union where every member feels supported and valued, and where we all work together to create a fairer workplace. I'd love the opportunity to continue this work as your Women's Officer.

Let's keep moving forward together.

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## **KENT, Kaylee** **WOMEN'S OFFICER**

Women account for most of people we find in classrooms every day, teaching and caring for students. Our working lives and the expectations that go with this are silent as to the very particular challenges and barriers we face as women. Our professional lives are significantly dependent upon the work we do outside of the working day. We are all acutely aware of expectations and time commitments around assessment and reporting to parents. We know how much time is devoted to data. This is before we even begin to consider the individual needs of our students in our lesson planning and preparation. None of this is particular to women.

However, research shows that it is women who also bear the majority burden of work in the home, the work involved in caring for our own children and running our households. It is women whose must accept career breaks to start their families. At the most fundamental level, it is women who spend a significant amount of the recess break time queuing to use a toilet.

As Women's Officer I am committed to ensuring that women's needs and circumstances are essential considerations for DoE and the schools we work in.