

**Australian Education Union  
Northern Territory Branch**

**CANDIDATE  
STATEMENTS**

**Scheduled Election –  
E2025/56**

OPEN TO SEE ALL STATEMENTS.

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

Statements submitted by candidates in accordance  
with AEU NT Branch 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.*

**Taylah Grillo**  
Returning Officer  
**Melbourne**

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## **METCALFE, Rachael**

### **BRANCH SECRETARY**

I have over twenty years' teaching experience in Aotearoa, the UK and the NT and seven years as an active AEU NT member in a variety of roles prior to being elected as Branch Secretary in 2023. I have seen firsthand the challenges our members face – from unsustainable workloads, underfunded schools and the ongoing need for stronger workplace protections.

I am standing again for this position because I believe in a union which continues to listen, act and deliver real outcomes for its members as evidenced in our recent wins for Educators in bargaining and school funding.

This is a multifaceted role with considerable responsibilities in audit, compliance and governance. I have worked with statutory bodies and auditors, accountants, lawyers and others on our Branch Executive to complete three audits, lodge statutory returns, effect Rule changes and update our organisation's policies and procedures.

I believe that strong leadership means listening to members, acting with integrity, and being present and accountable. As Branch Secretary, I will continue to work hard to represent your interests, defend our rights and build a stronger union together.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

In solidarity

Rachael Metcalfe

## **GRAY, Brian**

### **BRANCH SECRETARY**

Since I arrived in the NT ten years ago, I have always been a union member and put up my hand for any job that needed doing: sub-branch rep, regional secretary, branch vice president and now treasurer. As a volunteer, I have helped co-ordinate strike action in Arnhem Land, write reports and policy documents, and produce the Branch's annual budget. A highlight was my time working for AEU Federal on the 'For Every Child' campaign, which saw the disaster of attendance-based funding finally overturned and won an extra \$1.2 billion for Territory schools.

I have taught in Yuendumu, Yirrkala, Gapuwiyak, and Darwin. I am passionate about remote education, team teaching, and supporting Aboriginal language and culture in schools, and I have fought consistently for my colleagues and our students to have the working and learning conditions they deserve.

In a small branch like ours, being Secretary is a huge job. One person has to ensure compliance with legislation, manage the finances, lead our fantastic staff, and also take on individual member cases. I believe I can do this. And I believe that despite our small size, the Territory can and should have a powerful, well-run and democratic education union.

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