

**Australian Education Union
Northern Territory Branch
Scheduled Election - E2026/59
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

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

LOANE, Candace
BRANCH PRESIDENT

I'm seeking your support for President of the AEUNT because our union deserves a leader who listens first and understands the realities members face every day. Too often, members tell me they don't feel heard. They want their concerns acknowledged, their voices respected and their experiences reflected in union decisions.

I've served as Executive Councillor for both the Big Rivers and Darwin, and as Sub-Branch and Regional President. For nine years, I've represented members at Conference, advocating for campaigns that protect our profession, improve our conditions and strengthen our union.

My greatest qualification isn't the positions I've held. It's that I'm still living the same reality as our members. I've worked in remote and urban schools and understand the pressures of growing workloads, staff shortages, challenging student behaviour and rising living costs because I continue facing them alongside you.

I've also supported members through workplace issues and advocated during two EBA negotiations because nobody should face these challenges alone.

As President, I'll ensure every member is listened to, valued and represented. Whether you're in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs or our most remote communities, your voice will matter, your concerns will be heard, and your union will always stand beside you.

GRAY, Brian
BRANCH PRESIDENT

I am a unionist because I am passionate about democracy.

Democracy is not always easy and it is certainly not always efficient. Elections, meetings, deliberation and decisions take time, and can sometimes seem like distractions from the urgent battles in front of us. Following rules and proper processes can appear to slow us down.

But doing things right is the only way to ensure that all members have a genuine say in our union, that all educators have an effective voice in our workplaces, and that all citizens can participate equally and safely in an open and inclusive society.

Running a truly democratic union is hard work. I cannot promise that I will win every fight or be on top of every issue. There will be times when I fall short of your expectations – and my own. But if you elect me to lead this branch for the next two years, I promise you that I will give this job everything I've got.

Because this work is too important. Your work – as teachers, trainers, education support staff and school leaders – is too important.

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**NYE-LEDERHOSE, Elena
WOMEN'S OFFICER**

I am proud to renominate for the position of AEU NT Women's Officer.

During my term, I have worked to strengthen the voice, participation and representation of women across our union. I have facilitated workshops to empower and mobilise women members, helped run AEU NT Conference, and represented AEU NT at the Federal Women's Conference in 2025 and 2026.

Before becoming Women's Officer, I represented the Top End on Regional Executive and now work closely with Branch Executive while remaining active in my sub-branch and regional meetings. Through these roles, representative training, union actions and collaboration with members across the Territory, I have heard the diverse experiences and priorities of women educators throughout the NT.

I am passionate about responding to the changing landscape of misogyny and ensuring our union remains a strong collective voice for women in our highly feminised profession.

If re-elected, a key priority will be our next round of bargaining. I am undertaking bargaining-specific training and am determined to advocate for stronger, more inclusive reproductive and parental leave provisions that reflect members' lives.

I will continue listening, organising and advocating alongside women across the NT to turn our shared priorities into collective action and meaningful change.

**MURAD BALDWIN, Melanie
WOMEN'S OFFICER**

No candidate statement provided.