



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:00AM 7 MAY 2026**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **ACT EDUCATORS ANNOUNCE ESCALATING INDUSTRIAL ACTION: GOVERNMENT PUT ON NOTICE**

Public school educators across the ACT have today announced a coordinated program of industrial action as frustration mounts over enterprise bargaining negotiations. The program, to be rolled out in two phases, was endorsed unanimously by the AEU ACT Branch Council last night.

AEU ACT Branch President Angela Burroughs said the decision to take action reflects a workforce that has been pushed to its limit.

“This is a historic moment. Educators across the ACT — teachers and school assistants alike — have stood together and said enough is enough,” Ms Burroughs said.

“After months of delays, half-answers, and a failure to meaningfully engage with the issues we’ve put on the table, members have made it clear: they will not accept the status quo any longer.”

Ms Burroughs said that the first round of actions will be brief and targeted in nature — designed to send a clear warning to the Education Directorate and the Minister that members expect immediate and meaningful progress at the bargaining table.

The first phase of actions will run from Thursday 14 May, and will include:

- A ban on written student report comments or replacement for comments such as phone calls, parent meetings or learning journeys, through to the end of term 2
- A two-hour stop work action from 8:30am to 10:30am on Friday 22 May
- “Speaking out” to inform parents and the community about the realities of the bargaining dispute
- Wearing red or AEU merchandise on Fridays (15 May and 22 May)
- Campaign messaging embedded in email signatures
- Targeted work stoppages during visits by ACT Labor MLAs

“This first round of actions is a clear warning shot. It is measured, it is strategic, and it is designed to give the Government one more opportunity to do the right thing,” Ms Burroughs said.





aeuact@aeuact.org.au  
www.aeuact.org.au  
ABN: 98 106 001 142

If the first round of actions fails to secure meaningful progress from the Government, the union will escalate to a more extensive and disruptive second phase beginning Monday 25 May and continuing through the remainder of the term.

“Our preference has always been to resolve this at the bargaining table,” Ms Burroughs said. “But if the Government continues to delay and avoid addressing the core issues, we will escalate.”

The second phase allows for the full range of actions endorsed by members in the protected action ballot — including full-day strikes.

“Parents should be asking why it has come to this. Educators don’t take industrial action lightly — but they will take it when they have been left with no other choice,” Ms Burroughs said.

“This is not just about pay and conditions — it’s about the sustainability of the public education system. Right now, that system is under enormous strain.”

The union says the Government now faces a clear choice: engage seriously and resolve the dispute, or face a significant escalation in industrial action across ACT public schools.

“This is a turning point,” Ms Burroughs said. “Educators have delivered an overwhelming mandate for action. The Government cannot ignore that any longer.”

**Media contact:** Angela Burroughs, ph. 0419 104 193, [aeuact@aeuact.org.au](mailto:aeuact@aeuact.org.au)

