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MEDIA RELEASE

AEU PUTS ACT GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE: IMPROVE OFFER OR FACE ESCALATION

The Australian Education Union ACT Branch Council has today rejected the Government's offer for teaching staff and endorsed escalating industrial actions beginning the week of 21 September and continuing into Term 4.

AEU ACT Branch President Angela Burroughs said the offer did not deliver fair pay across the workforce or go far enough to address the conditions needed to fix the public education system.

"Our members deserve a pay offer that fairly values educators across the workforce, alongside meaningful improvements to the conditions they work in every day," Ms Burroughs said.

"The offer acknowledges some of the pressures facing our schools, but it doesn't yet provide the guarantees needed to fix them."

"Staffing shortages and split and collapsed classes have become chronic. We want a staffing guarantee in the agreement, real provisions to improve safety at work, and reduced class sizes."

"There has been some welcome and hard-won progress, but after more than 12 months of bargaining, this offer still falls short. The Government can do better."

"If the Government wants to avoid escalation in Term 4, there is a clear pathway: listen to our members and improve the offer," Ms Burroughs said.

"If it doesn't, we will escalate."

The Term 4 schedule will begin with short, rolling stop-work actions and escalate to a full-day strike if sufficient progress is not made.

"We are giving the Government every opportunity to resolve this dispute," Ms Burroughs said.

"But this is not an indefinite period for more talk. There is a clear timetable and a clear consequence if the Government fails to act."

"Our members have already shown they are prepared to stand up for themselves, their colleagues and their students. They are ready to do so again."

For further comment:

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