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**MEDIA RELEASE**

# AEU TO CAMPAIGN FOR NO VOTE ON TEACHING STAFF AGREEMENT

The Australian Education Union ACT Branch Council has rejected the ACT Government's revised offer for teaching staff and will be recommending a NO vote in the upcoming employee ballot.

AEU ACT Branch President Angela Burroughs said that despite significant improvements to working conditions secured through months of industrial action, the Government's offer fails to deliver a pay increase that keeps pace with the rising cost of living.

"While the additional pay increases for experienced classroom teachers and School Leaders C are well deserved, they must not leave behind mid-career teachers, deputy principals, principals, school psychologists or our colleagues covered by other agreements, including school assistants and CIT educators," Ms Burroughs said.

"Our members are facing the same cost-of-living pressures as everyone else. They should not be expected to accept a real-terms pay cut."

Ms Burroughs said that despite Council's decision to recommend a NO vote, members should be incredibly proud of what they had achieved through their collective action.

The revised offer includes significant improvements on key union claims, including a system-wide Staffing Guarantee, stronger class size and composition protections and improved workplace safety provisions.

The union has called on the ACT Government to demonstrate good faith by implementing both the Staffing Guarantee and the Class Size and Composition policies from the beginning of the 2027 school year, regardless of the outcome of the employee ballot.

"If the Government recognises that these policies are necessary to ensure our public schools are adequately staffed and our students are supported to learn, there is no reason why their implementation should be contingent on employees accepting a below-inflation pay offer."

"The Government has acknowledged the need to address these issues and developed policies to do so. It should get on with implementing them."

"Our students' access to adequately staffed classrooms should not depend on the outcome of an enterprise agreement ballot."

The AEU will continue to work alongside other ACT public sector unions to secure an improved common core pay offer that delivers a real wage increase for all employees.

The employee ballot on the proposed Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement will open on Wednesday 25 November.

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