



New South Wales Teachers Federation

a branch of the Australian Education Union
AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697



14 July 2026

In reply please quote:GS0451/2026/MS/md

Fair Work Commission
GPO Box 1994
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: regorgs@fwc.gov.au

DECLARATION OF AUTHORISED OFFICER in accordance with Regulation 126 *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009*

ALTERATION OF OTHER RULES OF ORGANISATIONS in accordance with section 159 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*

I, MEL SMITH of 23-33 MARY STREET SURRY HILLS NSW am the DEPUTY BRANCH SECRETARY of the AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION NEW SOUTH WALES TEACHERS FEDERATION BRANCH, designated by the Branch Secretary to perform the duties of the Branch Secretary in their absence (Rule 23(2)(b)). I am authorised to give this notice of particulars of alterations to the rules of AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION NEW SOUTH WALES TEACHERS FEDERATION BRANCH and to make this declaration as required by Regulation 126 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009*.

1. I declare that the alterations were made in accordance with the rules of the AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION NEW SOUTH WALES TEACHERS FEDERATION BRANCH.
2. The particulars of the rule alterations are attached to this declaration and labelled 'Schedule A'.
3. The actions taken under the rules to make this alteration were as follows:
 - (a) On Friday 19 June 2026, the Branch Secretary gave notice (attached to this declaration), including a copy of the proposed Rule changes, to each Conference member. This was in accordance with Rule 64 (2) which requires notice 14 days before the Branch Conference meeting.
 - (b) The Branch Conference meeting was held from Sunday 5 July – Tuesday 7 July 2026. Rule changes were considered on the last day of conference, Tuesday 7 July.
 - (c) A quorum was declared present at the Branch Conference meeting by the chair. 355 members attended the Branch Conference Meeting. As per Rule 7 (3), a quorum for a meeting of the Branch Conference shall be 150, as such the meeting was quorate.
 - (d) The majority of conference voted in support of each rule change, as per attached draft minutes.

4. I declare that the particulars set out in this notice are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Yours sincerely



Mel Smith
Deputy Secretary, Operations



Schedule A

Contents

1. Changes to AEU NSW Teachers Federation Rules
Change to Rule 31
2. Changes to AEU NSW Teachers Federation Rules
Change to Rules 12, 15, 22, 25, 26, 32 Branch
Professional Officers
3. Notice paper sent to conference members on
19.6.26
4. Agenda paper for the meeting forwarded to each
conference member with the notice paper
5. Excerpt of draft minutes for Annual Conference
item regarding Rule Changes



PROPOSED CHANGES TO AEU NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION RULES

Change to Rule 31

Abstract

Federation is proposing changes to the Rule listed above to due to suggestions received from the AEC in relation to a Rule that was identified as difficult to interpret or apply in the post-election report, and one that was identified that could be improved.

It results in a reference to facsimile being removed from the Rules as the AEC no longer has the ability to receive a facsimile. The second change enables the AEC to allow for progressive preliminary scrutiny which assists to avoid delay of processing postal ballots

Attached are the original rules and draft update showing the changes.

Current rule:

31 - CONDUCT OF SECRET POSTAL BALLOTS

- (1) Elections conducted by a secret postal ballot shall be conducted in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Returning Officer shall prepare a roll of voters which shall close 7 days before the day on which nominations are opened.
- (3) The Branch Returning Officer shall, on the close of nominations, check all nominations received for compliance with the requirements of the Rules, and where the Branch Returning Officer considers that any nomination is defective, they shall immediately notify the person concerned of the defect by the most expeditious means and, where it is practicable to do so, give them the opportunity of remedying the defect, allowing, if practicable, at least 7 days after notification.
- (4)
 - (a) A nominee in a ballot conducted in accordance with this Rule may withdraw their nomination at any time before the close of nominations and after nominations have closed, provided that such withdrawal is exercised within seven (7) days after the date on which nominations are advised to the Branch.
 - (b) Such withdrawal of nomination shall be by notice in writing to the Returning Officer signed by the nominee and submitted by hand, post or facsimile or any other electronic means.
- (5) The Branch Returning Officer shall, where there is no more than one valid nomination for a position, declare the nominated person elected.
- (6) The Branch Returning Officer shall, where there are more nominations than there are vacancies for a position:
 - (a) have the ballot papers prepared and delivered to them containing the names of the candidates for each position in an order chosen by lot, indicating the number to be elected to each position, the manner in which votes shall be recorded and the date and time fixed for the closing of the ballot;
 - (b) initial each ballot paper or cause each ballot paper to bear a facsimile of their initials;
 - (c) cause to be delivered to each member, who is financial as at the date of the closure of the roll of voters, a pre-paid reply envelope, a ballot paper and declaration envelope with a removable flap/label upon which the voter shall be required to sign as an eligible voter, such removable flap/label shall be detached or separated from the declaration envelope by the Branch Returning Officer and placed in separate piles so as to ensure that the ballot paper cannot be identified with the removable flap/label. Both envelopes shall be in the form prescribed by Regulation 6 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009;
 - (d) at the request of a candidate or group of candidates, forward with each ballot paper electoral material lodged by the candidate or groups of candidates. That

material must be lodged within seven days of the close of nominations, be provided in the form of an electronic file, be restricted to a maximum of 400 words per candidate and may include a passport sized photograph. The material may include an indication of preference provided that all candidates are shown in the order they appear on the ballot paper and there is a preference allocated to each candidate;

- (d) upon receipt of an application for an absentee vote from a member who is entitled to vote at a ballot and will be absent during the conduct of the ballot, issue that member with a ballot paper provided that the application is received in the period after the nominations have closed and before the opening of the ballot; and
 - (e) arrange for the use of a post office box or other receptacle into which ballot papers may be returned;
- (7) The Returning Officer shall, on the closing of the ballot and in the presence of such scrutineers as are present:
- (a) Take steps to ensure that all of the ballot papers are deposited in the ballot box;
 - (b) Open the ballot box to produce unopened declaration envelopes;
 - (c) Determine, prima facie, the bona fides of the ballots by reference to the roll of voters and the removable flap/label;
 - (d) Open the ballot paper envelope and extract from them all ballot papers in such manner as to preserve the secrecy of the ballot;
 - (e) Place the ballot paper envelopes and ballot papers in separate bundles;
 - (f) Proceed with the counting of the votes in accordance with Rule 34 and declare the result of the ballot.
- (8) Any vote in a ballot shall be informal if:
- (a) The ballot paper is received by the Branch Returning Officer after the notified hour on the closing date;
 - (b) The ballot paper is not contained in a declaration envelope which in turn is contained in the prescribed outer envelope;
 - (c) The removable flap/label is not signed; or
 - (d) The content of the ballot paper does not comply with the instructions printed on it.
- (9) If the Branch Returning Officer is satisfied that a ballot paper has been destroyed, lost, damaged or misused they shall supply (in the place of the damaged or misused ballot paper on receipt thereof) to the person to whom the original ballot was supplied a substitute ballot paper.

Proposed rule:

31 - CONDUCT OF SECRET POSTAL BALLOTS

- (1) Elections conducted by a secret postal ballot shall be conducted in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Returning Officer shall prepare a roll of voters which shall close 7 days before the day on which nominations are opened.
- (3) The Branch Returning Officer shall, on the close of nominations, check all nominations received for compliance with the requirements of the Rules, and where the Branch Returning Officer considers that any nomination is defective, they shall immediately notify the person concerned of the defect by the most expeditious means and, where it is practicable to do so, give them the opportunity of remedying the defect, allowing, if practicable, at least 7 days after notification.
- (4)
 - (a) A nominee in a ballot conducted in accordance with this Rule may withdraw their nomination at any time before the close of nominations and after nominations have closed, provided that such withdrawal is exercised within seven (7) days after the date on which nominations are advised to the Branch.
 - (b) Such withdrawal of nomination shall be by notice in writing to the Returning Officer signed by the nominee and submitted by hand, post ~~or facsimile~~ or any other electronic means **acceptable to the Returning Officer**.
- (5) The Branch Returning Officer shall, where there is no more than one valid nomination for a position, declare the nominated person elected.
- (6) The Branch Returning Officer shall, where there are more nominations than there are vacancies for a position:
 - (a) have the ballot papers prepared and delivered to them containing the names of the candidates for each position in an order chosen by lot, indicating the number to be elected to each position, the manner in which votes shall be recorded and the date and time fixed for the closing of the ballot;
 - (b) initial each ballot paper or cause each ballot paper to bear a facsimile of their initials;
 - (c) cause to be delivered to each member, who is financial as at the date of the closure of the roll of voters, a pre-paid reply envelope, a ballot paper and declaration envelope with a removable flap/label upon which the voter shall be required to sign as an eligible voter, such removable flap/label shall be detached or separated from the declaration envelope by the Branch Returning Officer and placed in separate piles so as to ensure that the ballot paper cannot be identified with the removable flap/label. Both envelopes shall be in the form prescribed by Regulation 6 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009;
 - (d) at the request of a candidate or group of candidates, forward with each ballot paper electoral material lodged by the candidate or groups of candidates. That

material must be lodged within seven days of the close of nominations, be provided in the form of an electronic file, be restricted to a maximum of 400 words per candidate and may include a passport sized photograph. The material may include an indication of preference provided that all candidates are shown in the order they appear on the ballot paper and there is a preference allocated to each candidate;

- (d) upon receipt of an application for an absentee vote from a member who is entitled to vote at a ballot and will be absent during the conduct of the ballot, issue that member with a ballot paper provided that the application is received in the period after the nominations have closed and before the opening of the ballot; and
 - (e) arrange for the use of a post office box or other receptacle into which ballot papers may be returned;
- (7) The Returning Officer ~~shall~~ must:

(7.1) Before counting the votes, in respect of each reply-paid envelope:

- (a) remove the declaration envelope from the reply-paid envelope;
- (b) examine the voter's declaration attached to the declaration envelope; and
- (c) mark off the voter's name against a copy of the roll of voters.

The Returning Officer may begin to carry out these requirement before the closing time of the ballot.

(7.2) On the closing of the ballot and in the presence of such scrutineers as are present:

- ~~(a) — Take steps to ensure that all of the ballot papers are deposited in the ballot box;~~
- ~~(b) — Open the ballot box to produce unopened declaration envelopes;~~
- ~~(c) — Determine, prima facie, the bona fides of the ballots by reference to the roll of voters and the removable flap/label;~~
- (da) Open the ballot paper envelope and extract from them all ballot papers in such manner as to preserve the secrecy of the ballot;
- (eb) Place the ballot paper envelopes and ballot papers in separate bundles;
- (fc) Proceed with the counting of the votes in accordance with Rule 34 and declare the result of the ballot.

(8) Any vote in a ballot shall be informal if:

- (a) The ballot paper is received by the Branch Returning Officer after the notified hour on the closing date;
- (b) The ballot paper is not contained in a declaration envelope which in turn is contained in the prescribed outer envelope;

- (c) The removable flap/label is not signed; or
 - (d) The content of the ballot paper does not comply with the instructions printed on it.
- (9) If the Branch Returning Officer is satisfied that a ballot paper has been destroyed, lost, damaged or misused they shall supply (in the place of the damaged or misused ballot paper on receipt thereof) to the person to whom the original ballot was supplied a substitute ballot paper.



PROPOSED CHANGES TO AEU NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION RULES

Change to Rules 12, 15, 22, 25, 26, 32 Branch
Professional Officers

Abstract

Federation is proposing changes to the Rules listed above to clarify the status of a Branch Professional Officer

The union has long sought for the relationship between the Branch and Branch Professional Officer to be clarified as an employment relationship, and the election is a selection process, followed by an offer of employment by the General Secretary via a letter of employment.

Attached are the original rules and draft update showing the changes.

Current rule:

12 - BRANCH COUNCIL POWERS

- (1) Subject to this rule, and to decisions of the Branch Conference, the Branch Council shall have power to control and manage the business and affairs of the Branch in accordance with the Rules and Objects of the Union. Without limiting the generality of this power, the Branch Council shall have power to:
- (a) Deal with matters submitted to it by the Branch Conference, Branch Executive or Associations.
 - (b) Elect Branch Professional Officers and determine their duties;
 - (c) Appoint or remove a Branch Returning Officer and Deputy Branch Returning Officer qualified to act in accordance with the FW (RO) Act, to conduct any election for which a Returning Officer is required in connection with any Branch office in the Union;
 - (a) Terminate the employment of Professional Officers where:
 - i. the position held by the Branch Professional Officer has been abolished in accordance with rule 25(4) and there is no suitable alternative position available; or
 - ii. the Branch Professional Officer has misappropriated funds of the Union, has substantially breached the Union's Rules, has engaged in gross misbehaviour in relation to their position or has grossly neglected their duties.
 - (e) Dismiss from office any person elected to an office within the Branch who has been found guilty in accordance with the Rules of the Union of misappropriation of the funds of the Union, a substantial breach of the Rules of the Union, gross misbehaviour or gross neglect of duty in relation to their office or who has ceased according to the Rules of the Union to be eligible to hold the office;
 - (f) Delegate to the Branch Executive, its powers under rule 12(1)(d) and rule 12(1)(e);
 - (g) Authorise an application for the registration of the Union under Chapter 5 the IR Act;
 - (h) Participate in systems for regulating workplace relations created by the Act and the IR Act;
 - (i) Act as a medium of communication between the associations or individual members on the one hand and employing authorities or the government on the other;
 - (j) Frame standing orders for the Branch Council for the control of meetings; and
 - (k) Do all things necessary or convenient to the exercise of the foregoing powers or any powers conferred by the Federal Rules or the Federal Branch Rules.

- (2) Decisions of the Branch Council shall be binding on the Branch Executive, associations and members.
- (3) Notwithstanding sub-rule (1), the Branch Council does not have power to control or manage the finances of the Branch.

Proposed rule:

12 - BRANCH COUNCIL POWERS

- (1) Subject to this rule, and to decisions of the Branch Conference, the Branch Council shall have power to control and manage the business and affairs of the Branch in accordance with the Rules and Objects of the Union. Without limiting the generality of this power, the Branch Council shall have power to:
- (a) Deal with matters submitted to it by the Branch Conference, Branch Executive or Associations.
 - (b) Elect Branch Professional Officers and determine their duties;
 - (c) Appoint or remove a Branch Returning Officer and Deputy Branch Returning Officer qualified to act in accordance with the FW (RO) Act, to conduct any election for which a Returning Officer is required in connection with any Branch office in the Union;
 - (d) Terminate the employment of **Branch** Professional Officers where:
 - i. the position held by the Branch Professional Officer has been abolished in accordance with rule 25(4) and there is no suitable alternative position available; or
 - iii. the Branch Professional Officer has ~~misappropriated funds of the Union, has substantially breached the Union's Rules, has~~ engaged in ~~gross misbehaviour in relation to their position or has grossly neglected their duties~~ serious misconduct.
 - ii.
 - (e) Dismiss from office any person elected to an office within the Branch who has been found guilty in accordance with the Rules of the Union of misappropriation of the funds of the Union, a substantial breach of the Rules of the Union, gross misbehaviour or gross neglect of duty in relation to their office or who has ceased according to the Rules of the Union to be eligible to hold the office;
 - (f) Delegate to the Branch Executive, its powers under rule 12(1)(d) and rule 12(1)(e);
 - (g) Authorise an application for the registration of the Union under Chapter 5 the IR Act;
 - (h) Participate in systems for regulating workplace relations created by the Act and the IR Act;
 - (i) Act as a medium of communication between the associations or individual members on the one hand and employing authorities or the government on the other;
 - (j) Frame standing orders for the Branch Council for the control of meetings; and

- (k) Do all things necessary or convenient to the exercise of the foregoing powers or any powers conferred by the Federal Rules or the Federal Branch Rules.
- (2) Decisions of the Branch Council shall be binding on the Branch Executive, associations and members.
- (3) Notwithstanding sub-rule (1), the Branch Council does not have power to control or manage the finances of the Branch.

Current rule:

15 - BRANCH EXECUTIVE POWERS

- (1) The Branch Executive shall be the committee of management of the Branch and, subject to sub-rule (2), shall, between meetings of the Branch Council, be responsible for the management to the Branch.
- (2) Prior to the first meeting of the Branch Council, the Branch Executive shall have all the powers of the Branch Council and, thereafter, between meetings of the Branch Council, shall have all the powers except the powers to amend the Federal Branch Rules.
- (3) The Branch Executive shall, as soon as practicable, give effect to any resolution of the Branch Council.
- (4) The Branch Executive shall, in addition, have power to:
 - (a) Determine the remuneration and conditions of employment of Branch Professional Officers and Branch employees;
 - (b) Employ, and dismiss, such employees as may be necessary for the conduct of the business of the Branch and determine their duties;
 - (c) Cease the employment of Branch Professional Officers in circumstances other than those outlined in 12(1)(d);
 - (d) Investigate complaints by members of the Branch and take such action as may be deemed necessary;
 - (e) Delegate to officers, or the holders of any named offices, its power under rule 15(4)(a), rule 15(4)(b), rule 15(4)(c) and rule 15(4)(d);
 - (f) Determine the remuneration conditions of employment of full time elected officers and the honoraria payable to other elected officers;
 - (g) Purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, and disburse monies from the Branch Fund for the conduct of the business of the Branch;
 - (h) Make contributions to superannuation schemes, or retirement funds for the benefit of elected, appointed or employed officers and employees to enter into such arrangements as may be necessary for that purpose;
 - (i) Appoint as a Branch auditor persons qualified to act in accordance with the FW (RO) Act, for any purpose for which an auditor is required in connection with the Branch accounts and, if appropriate, remove that person;
 - (j) Demand or cause to be made an audit of the books and accounts of any association, and for that purpose take possession of all property, books, bank books, documents and correspondence from any association; and

- (k) Raise funds by subscriptions, levies, loans, mortgages, commercial bank bills, donations and in any other manner approved by the Branch Council and to spend the monies so raised for the purpose of carrying out all or any of the objects of the Union.
- (5) Decisions of the Branch Executive shall be binding on associations and members.

Proposed rule:

15 - BRANCH EXECUTIVE POWERS

- (1) The Branch Executive shall be the committee of management of the Branch and, subject to sub-rule (2), shall, between meetings of the Branch Council, be responsible for the management to the Branch.
- (2) Prior to the first meeting of the Branch Council, the Branch Executive shall have all the powers of the Branch Council and, thereafter, between meetings of the Branch Council, shall have all the powers except the powers to amend the Federal Branch Rules.
- (3) The Branch Executive shall, as soon as practicable, give effect to any resolution of the Branch Council.
- (4) The Branch Executive shall, in addition, have power to:
 - (a) Determine the remuneration and conditions of employment of Branch Professional Officers and other Branch employees;
 - (b) Employ, and dismiss, such employees as may be necessary for the conduct of the business of the Branch and determine their duties;
 - (c) Cease the employment of Branch Professional Officers:
 - (i) in the circumstances outlined in rule 12(1)(d)(i) where that power has been delegated by the Branch Council; and
 - (ii) for any other reason including but not limited to reasons relating to the Branch Professional Officer's capacity, conduct (including serious misconduct) or performance ~~in circumstances other than those outlined in 12(1)(d);~~;
 - (d) Investigate complaints by members of the Branch and take such action as may be deemed necessary;
 - (e) Delegate to officers, or the holders of any named offices, ~~its~~ any power under rule 15(4)(a), rule 15(4)(b), rule 15(4)(c) and rule 15(4)(d);
 - (f) Determine the remuneration conditions of employment of full time elected officers and the honoraria payable to other elected officers;
 - (g) Purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, and disburse monies from the Branch Fund for the conduct of the business of the Branch;
 - (h) Make contributions to superannuation schemes, or retirement funds for the benefit of elected, appointed or employed officers and employees to enter into such arrangements as may be necessary for that purpose;

- (i) Appoint as a Branch auditor persons qualified to act in accordance with the FW (RO) Act, for any purpose for which an auditor is required in connection with the Branch accounts and, if appropriate, remove that person;
 - (j) Demand or cause to be made an audit of the books and accounts of any association, and for that purpose take possession of all property, books, bank books, documents and correspondence from any association; and
 - (k) Raise funds by subscriptions, levies, loans, mortgages, commercial bank bills, donations and in any other manner approved by the Branch Council and to spend the monies so raised for the purpose of carrying out all or any of the objects of the Union.
- (5) Decisions of the Branch Executive shall be binding on associations and members.

Current rule:

22 - DUTIES OF THE BRANCH SECRETARY

- (1) The Branch Secretary shall be a Senior Officer of the Branch and a full time officer. The Branch Secretary will be known as the General Secretary of the AEU New South Wales Teachers Federation (NSWTF) branch.
- (2) In addition to the duties imposed on the Branch Secretary by these rules, the Branch Secretary shall perform the following duties:
 - (a) Attend all meetings of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive and such other meetings as directed, and be responsible for the keeping of correct minutes of the proceedings of such meetings;
 - (b) Keep all documents, vouchers and papers belonging to the Branch;
 - (c) Carry out the instructions of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive and exercise a general control over the affairs of the Branch;
 - (d) Call meetings of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive in accordance with these rules and convene the first meeting of any committee appointed by the Branch Conference, Branch Council or Branch Executive as soon as is practicable;
 - (e) Be the public officer of the Branch;
 - (f) Prepare all returns required by the Act, the FW (RO) Act and the IR Act;
 - (g) Keep a register of the members of the Branch ensuring each member's financial status is recorded and a register of members on the Aboriginal Members' and Torres Strait Islander Members' Roll;
 - (h) Have the control and supervision of the paid officers and employees of the Branch;
 - (i) Perform the role of Returning Officer for all Branch Council ballots unless the Branch Deputy Secretary is directed to perform this role;
 - (j) Be responsible for the financial management of the Branch;
 - (k) Be responsible for ensuring that all Branch policies for the elimination of discrimination and sexual harassment are adhered to for the benefit of Branch officers, employees and members;
 - (l) Notify the association secretaries of the names of members allocated to associations;
 - (m) Inform association secretaries, as soon as practicable, where casual vacancies occur in the offices of association representatives on Branch Council or additional association representatives to Branch Conference;

- (n) Inform associations of the business set down for Branch Council and Branch Conference;
- (o) Delegate any duty under this rule to any Branch Professional Officer other than the power to delegate or a duty required by statute to be performed by the Branch Secretary or an elected officer; and
- (p) Perform such other duties as the Branch Council or the Branch Executive may determine from time to time.

Proposed rule:

22 - DUTIES OF THE BRANCH SECRETARY

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- (2) In addition to the duties imposed on the Branch Secretary by these rules, the Branch Secretary shall perform the following duties:
 - (a) Attend all meetings of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive and such other meetings as directed, and be responsible for the keeping of correct minutes of the proceedings of such meetings;
 - (b) Keep all documents, vouchers and papers belonging to the Branch;
 - (c) Carry out the instructions of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive and exercise a general control over the affairs of the Branch;
 - (d) Call meetings of the Branch Conference, Branch Council and Branch Executive in accordance with these rules and convene the first meeting of any committee appointed by the Branch Conference, Branch Council or Branch Executive as soon as is practicable;
 - (e) Be the public officer of the Branch;
 - (f) Prepare all returns required by the Act, the FW (RO) Act and the IR Act;
 - (g) Keep a register of the members of the Branch ensuring each member's financial status is recorded and a register of members on the Aboriginal Members' and Torres Strait Islander Members' Roll;
 - (h) Offer employment to persons elected as Branch Professional Officers by the Branch Council;
 - (i) Have the control and supervision of the paid officers and employees of the Branch;
 - (j) Perform the role of Returning Officer for all Branch Council ballots unless the Branch Deputy Secretary is directed to perform this role;
 - (k) Be responsible for the financial management of the Branch;
 - (l) Be responsible for ensuring that all Branch policies for the elimination of discrimination and sexual harassment are adhered to for the benefit of Branch officers, employees and members;
 - (m) Notify the association secretaries of the names of members allocated to associations;

- (n) Inform association secretaries, as soon as practicable, where casual vacancies occur in the offices of association representatives on Branch Council or additional association representatives to Branch Conference;
- (o) Inform associations of the business set down for Branch Council and Branch Conference;
- (p) Delegate any duty under this rule to any Branch Professional Officer other than the power to delegate or a duty required by statute to be performed by the Branch Secretary or an elected officer; and
- (q) Perform such other duties as the Branch Council or the Branch Executive may determine from time to time.

Current rule:

25 - BRANCH PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

- (1) The Branch shall employ Branch Professional Officers to fill Branch Professional Officer positions established in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Council may, on the recommendation of the Branch Executive, or on a notice of motion supported by at least 20 association representatives on the Branch Council, establish new Branch Professional Officer positions provided that 14 days notice has been given to all members of the Branch Council.
- (3) The Branch Conference may, on the recommendation of the Branch Executive or on a notice of motion supported by at least 20 association representatives on Branch Council, establish Branch Professional Officer positions provided that 14 days notice has been given to all members of the Branch Conference.
- (4) The Branch Council may, at any time, abolish a Branch Professional Officer position provided that notice of the proposal to abolish the position appears on the Notice paper of the Branch Council meeting at which the proposal is to be considered.
- (5) Branch Professional Officers will be responsible for implementing the policies of the Union and the Branch, performing any other duties as are determined by the Branch Council and will be subject to the day to day control and direction of the Branch Secretary.
- (6) The Branch Secretary may, notwithstanding the statement of duties of a Branch Professional Officer, assign the Branch Professional Officer, on a temporary basis, to an area of need.
- (7) Where a Branch Professional Officer is assigned to an area of need, and is dissatisfied with the nature of the duties assigned to them, they may appeal against that decision to the Branch Executive.

Proposed rule:

25 - BRANCH PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

- (1) The Branch shall employ Branch Professional Officers to fill Branch Professional Officer positions established in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Council may, on the recommendation of the Branch Executive, or on a notice of motion supported by at least 20 association representatives on the Branch Council, establish new Branch Professional Officer positions provided that 14 days notice has been given to all members of the Branch Council.
- (3) The Branch Conference may, on the recommendation of the Branch Executive or on a notice of motion supported by at least 20 association representatives on Branch Council, establish Branch Professional Officer positions provided that 14 days notice has been given to all members of the Branch Conference.
- (4) The Branch Council may, at any time, abolish a Branch Professional Officer position provided that notice of the proposal to abolish the position appears on the Notice paper of the Branch Council meeting at which the proposal is to be considered.
- (5) Branch Professional Officers will be responsible for implementing the policies of the Union and the Branch, performing any other duties as are determined by the Branch Council and will be subject to the day to day control and direction of the Branch Secretary.
- (5A) Branch Professional Officers do not manage the affairs of the Branch, determine the policy of the Branch, make, alter or rescind the rules of the Branch, enforce the rules of the Branch, or hold property of the Branch.
- (6) The Branch Secretary may, notwithstanding the statement of duties of a Branch Professional Officer, assign the Branch Professional Officer, on a temporary basis, to an area of need.
- (7) Where a Branch Professional Officer is assigned to an area of need, and is dissatisfied with the nature of the duties assigned to them, they may appeal against that decision to the Branch Executive.

Current rule:

26 - EMPLOYMENT OF BRANCH PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

- (1) Any financial member of the Branch may nominate for election to a position as a Branch Professional Officer. The Branch Professional Officers shall be elected by members of the Branch Council at a meeting.
- (2) The members of the Branch Council entitled to vote in an election for Branch Professional Officers will be the members of the Branch Council as at the date of the close of nominations.
- (3) In the event that a person who is elected as a Branch Professional Officer is, at the time of their election, a member of the Branch Council or the Branch Executive:
 - (a) they will be deemed to be on leave from their position on the Branch Council; and
 - (b) if they hold a position on the Branch Executive, they will no longer be eligible to hold the position on the Branch Executive.
- (4) A Branch Professional Officer may nominate for and be elected to a position on the Branch Council provided that, if they are elected, they shall be deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council while they remain a Branch Professional Officer.
- (5) Where a member of the Branch Council is deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council:
 - (a) they will have none of the rights of a member of a Branch Council other than the right to nominate for and vote in elections for the offices of Branch Secretary and Branch Deputy Secretary; and
 - (b) the duties of their position on the Branch Council shall be performed by an eligible alternative association representative.
 - (c) For the purposes of this sub-rule, the eligible alternative representative will be an alternative representative from the association which the Branch Professional Officer was elected to the Branch Council, or if the Branch Professional Officer was elected to the Branch Council by members on the Aboriginal Members' and Torres Strait Islander Members' Roll, an alternate representative of members on that Roll.
 - (d) An alternative representative who is performing the duties of a member of the Branch Council in accordance with this sub-rule shall have the right to nominate for and vote in elections for offices elected by and from members of the Branch Council.
 - (e) In the event that a Branch Professional Officer who is deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council ceases to be a Branch Professional Officer before the expiration of their term of office as a member of the Branch Council, they shall resume their former position on the Branch Council and the alternative

representative who has replaced them shall cease being a member of the Branch Council unless they have been elected to an office elected by and from members of the Branch Council.

Proposed rule:

26 - EMPLOYMENT OF BRANCH PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

- (1) Any financial member of the Branch may nominate for election to a position as a Branch Professional Officer. ~~No person may accept employment as a~~ ~~The~~ Branch Professional Officer ~~s-shall~~ ~~unless they are a financial member of the Branch and have~~ been elected by members of the Branch Council at a meeting.
- (2) The members of the Branch Council entitled to vote in an election for Branch Professional Officers will be the members of the Branch Council as at the date of the close of nominations.
- (3) In the event that a person who is elected as a Branch Professional Officer is, at the time of their election, a member of the Branch Council or the Branch Executive:
 - (a) they will be deemed to be on leave from their position on the Branch Council; and
 - (b) if they hold a position on the Branch Executive, they will no longer be eligible to hold the position on the Branch Executive.
- (4) A Branch Professional Officer may nominate for and be elected to a position on the Branch Council provided that, if they are elected, they shall be deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council while they remain a Branch Professional Officer.
- (5) Where a member of the Branch Council is deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council:
 - (a) they will have none of the rights of a member of a Branch Council other than the right to nominate for and vote in elections for the offices of Branch Secretary and Branch Deputy Secretary; and
 - (b) the duties of their position on the Branch Council shall be performed by an eligible alternative association representative.
 - (c) For the purposes of this sub-rule, the eligible alternative representative will be an alternative representative from the association which the Branch Professional Officer was elected to the Branch Council, or if the Branch Professional Officer was elected to the Branch Council by members on the Aboriginal Members' and Torres Strait Islander Members' Roll, an alternate representative of members on that Roll.
 - (d) An alternative representative who is performing the duties of a member of the Branch Council in accordance with this sub-rule shall have the right to nominate for and vote in elections for offices elected by and from members of the Branch Council.
 - (e) In the event that a Branch Professional Officer who is deemed to be on leave from the Branch Council ceases to be a Branch Professional Officer before the expiration of their term of office as a member of the Branch Council, they shall

resume their former position on the Branch Council and the alternative representative who has replaced them shall cease being a member of the Branch Council unless they have been elected to an office elected by and from members of the Branch Council.

- (6) A meeting of the Branch Council which elects Branch Professional Officers will, as far as practicable, conduct the election in accordance with rules 32 to 34.
- (7) A person elected by the Branch Council to the position of Branch Professional Officer will be offered employment with the Branch by the Branch Secretary or, if the Branch Secretary is unable to perform this duty, another officer authorised to exercise the duties of the Branch Secretary in their absence.
- (8) A Branch Professional Officer does not fill the position of Branch Professional Officer unless, and until, they have accepted an offer of employment from the Branch.

Current rule:

32 - CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AT MEETINGS

- (1) An election conducted by a secret ballot at a meeting shall be conducted in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Returning Officer shall, on the close of nominations, check all nominations received for compliance with the Rules. Where the Branch Returning Officer considers that any nomination is defective, they shall immediately notify the person concerned of the defect by the most expeditious means and, where it is practicable to do so, give them the opportunity of remedying the defect, allowing, if practicable, at least 7 days after the notification.
- (3)
 - (a) A nominee in a ballot conducted in accordance with this Rule may withdraw their nomination at any time before the close of nominations, and after nominations have closed, provided that such withdrawal is exercised within seven (7) days after the date on which nominations are advised to the Branch.
 - (b) Such withdrawal of nomination shall be by notice in writing to the Returning Officer signed by the nominee and submitted by hand, post or facsimile or any other electronic means.
- (4) If there is no more than one nomination for a position, the Branch Returning Officer shall declare the nominated person elected to the position.
- (5)
 - (a) at the request of a candidate or group of candidates, electoral material may be lodged by the candidate or groups of candidates. That material must be lodged within seven days of the close of nominations, be provided in the form of an electronic file, be restricted to a maximum of 400 words per candidate and may include a passport sized photograph. The material may include an indication of preference provided that all candidates are shown in the order they appear on the ballot paper and there is a preference allocated to each candidate. The candidates' statements are to be lodged by the means determined by the Returning Officer at the address notified by the Returning Officer.
 - (b) The candidates' statements will be provided to eligible voters prior to the conduct of the ballot.
- (6) If more nominations are received than there are vacancies for a position, the Branch Returning Officer shall:
 - (a) have the ballot papers prepared containing the names of the candidates for each position in an order chosen by lot indicating the number to be elected to each position and the manner in which the votes shall be recorded;
 - (b) be responsible for the safe custody of the ballot papers and ensure that voters can cast a secret vote;
 - (c) initial each ballot paper or have each ballot paper bear a facsimile of their initials;

- (d) issue a ballot paper to each member present at the meeting entitled to receive a vote;
 - (e) on the closing of the ballot, in the presence of scrutineers, count all the votes in accordance with Rule 34 and declare the result of the ballot.
- (7)
 - (a) Where a person eligible to vote in an election to be conducted at a meeting in accordance with this Rule is unable to attend the meeting, they may appoint another person eligible to vote in the election vote in their stead.
 - (b) An appointment made in accordance with this sub-rule must be in writing and be provided to the Branch Returning Officer before the time appointed for the conduct of the ballot.
 - (c) A person appointed in accordance with this sub-rule shall exercise the vote of the person they replace as they see fit.

Proposed rule:

32 - CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AT MEETINGS

- (1) An election conducted by a secret ballot at a meeting shall be conducted in accordance with this rule.
- (2) The Branch Returning Officer shall, on the close of nominations, check all nominations received for compliance with the Rules. Where the Branch Returning Officer considers that any nomination is defective, they shall immediately notify the person concerned of the defect by the most expeditious means and, where it is practicable to do so, give them the opportunity of remedying the defect, allowing, if practicable, at least 7 days after the notification.
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- (5)
 - (a) at the request of a candidate or group of candidates, electoral material may be lodged by the candidate or groups of candidates. That material must be lodged within seven days of the close of nominations, be provided in the form of an electronic file, be restricted to a maximum of 400 words per candidate and may include a passport sized photograph. The material may include an indication of preference provided that all candidates are shown in the order they appear on the ballot paper and there is a preference allocated to each candidate. The candidates' statements are to be lodged by the means determined by the Returning Officer at the address notified by the Returning Officer.
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 - (b) be responsible for the safe custody of the ballot papers and ensure that voters can cast a secret vote;
 - (c) initial each ballot paper or have each ballot paper bear a facsimile of their initials;

- (d) issue a ballot paper to each member present at the meeting entitled to receive a vote;
 - (e) on the closing of the ballot, in the presence of scrutineers, count all the votes in accordance with Rule 34 and declare the result of the ballot.
- (7)
- (a) Where a person eligible to vote in an election to be conducted at a meeting in accordance with this Rule is unable to attend the meeting, they may appoint another person eligible to vote in the election vote in their stead.
 - (b) An appointment made in accordance with this sub-rule must be in writing and be provided to the Branch Returning Officer before the time appointed for the conduct of the ballot.
 - ~~(c)~~
- (8) A person appointed in accordance with this sub-rule shall exercise the vote of the person they replace as they see fit.

From: [Pablo Nacer](#)
To: [Alert](#)
Subject: Fw: ** Informz Test ** Annual Conference 2026 — Notice 3
Date: Friday, 19 June 2026 12:46:36 PM

To be sent to all Conference Delegates, Councillors, Alternative Councillors, and Conference Proxies.

Read this email in your [web browser](#).



Dear Pablo,

This year's **Annual Conference** will be held at **Sydney International Convention Centre**, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney from **9am Sunday 5 July to 5pm Tuesday 7 July**.

Delegates are required to bring their own device to access all conference papers, reports and recommendations, which will be available through the [Annual Conference portal](#). Hard copies of papers will not be made available.

Yours sincerely,

Maxine Sharkey
General Secretary

Planning for Annual Conference

This year's Annual Conference will be held at Sydney International Convention Centre, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney from 9am Sunday 5 July to 5pm Tuesday 7 July.

Life Membership lunch

The Life Membership lunch will be held at Sydney International Convention Centre (ICC), **Sunday 5 July**. Details have been forwarded to Federation Life Members.

Agenda

Annual Conference will discuss significant matters relating infrastructure funding, rebuilding TAFE, anti-racism and special education amongst other matters. [The Annual Conference agenda](#) is now available via the [Annual Conference Portal](#).

Rules and Procedures

[Click here](#) to access the arrangements for Annual Conference 2026.

[Click here](#) to access the Standing Orders for Annual Conference 2026.

Motions from Associations

Associations have the ability to list motions for debate. Conference delegates shall vote on the first morning of Conference to determine the order of consideration of Association motions.

You can find a copy of the submitted motions [here](#), on the Conference portal.

Rule amendments

You can view a copy of the [proposed rule changes here](#). There are no proposed rules changes suggested by Associations.

The proposed rule changes are:

Professional Branch Officers

This rule change seeks to further clarify that the relationship between the Federation (the Branch) and Branch Professional Officer is an employment relationship, with the election acting as a selection process. The next step in this process is that successful candidates then receive an offer of employment by the General Secretary via a letter of employment.

Rule 31: Conduct of Secret Postal Ballot

Federation is proposing changes to Rule 31 due to suggestions received from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in relation to a Rule that was identified as difficult to interpret or apply in the post-election report, and one that was identified that could be improved.

It results in a reference to facsimile being removed from the Rules as the AEC no longer has the ability to receive a facsimile. The second change enables the AEC to allow for progressive preliminary scrutiny, which assists to avoid delay of processing postal ballots.

The process to alter Branch Rules is outlined in Branch Rule 64(2) and is:

In the event that the Branch Conference exercises its powers in accordance with this rule, the proposed rule change must be submitted as an agenda item 28 days before the Annual Branch Conference or Special Branch Conference and be forwarded with the Agenda paper for the meeting to each Conference member 14 days before the Branch Conference meeting.

If/when Conference votes to change the Rules, the decision of Conference is communicated to the Fair Work Commission, which will assess and certify it. Changes to the Rules do not take effect until the Fair Work Commission certifies them.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed changes to the Rules, please contact council@nswtf.org.au with your query.

Travel and accommodation

Annual Conference travel and accommodation **bookings are closed** and additional bookings cannot be made at this time.

E-tickets and hotel booking details will be available via the Member Portal. Please contact [Federation's Travel Coordinator](#) immediately if you believe there are any errors or if the information is not in accordance with your booking form.

Please direct all travel enquiries to Federation's Travel Coordinator at travel@nswtf.org.au.

Proxy representatives

Conference delegates unable to attend Annual Conference may appoint a proxy.

To register proxies, Annual Conference delegates should complete the [Annual Conference proxy](#) form and return it for the attention of the Senior Officers section coordinator, as soon as possible via council@nswtf.org.au.

If you have any questions regarding proxy representatives, please contact council@nswtf.org.au.

Annual Conference Dinner

Please join us for the 2026 NSW Teachers Federation Annual Conference Dinner at the ICC Convention Centre — Parkside Ballroom on **Monday 6 July 2026** from 6.30pm.

Included in the evening's festivities are:

- a delicious two-course meal and canapes. Pre-dinner drinks and canapes start at 6.30 pm for 30 minutes
- a comedian to tickle your funny bone
- our famous barrel draw — Will you be a winner this year?
- a dance floor and Planet Groove playing their greatest hits
- plenty of laughs with your fellow comrades and colleagues
- Tickets are \$175 for members and are available via [Sticky Tickets](#).

Group bookings (of a table of 10) can be made by Associations contacting their Federation Regional Offices/the Administrative team in Sydney at organisers@nswtf.org.au.

Ticket sales close 25 June.

Childcare

The union offers a creche program on the days of Annual Conference for children up to the age of 14, operating on level 2 of Teachers Federation House (23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills).

Drop off is available from 8.15am, with pick up being within 45 minutes of Conference's conclusion each day.

Under school aged children will remain onsite. School aged children may participate in an excursion program.

A completed [enrolment form](#) for each child is to be submitted to childcare@nswtf.org.au **no later than Friday 19 June**. Late enrolments may not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact childcare@nswtf.org.au.

Caucuses and lunches

Women's Caucus

All women Delegates, Councillors and Alternates are invited to attend Women's Caucus on **Sunday 5 July**, to be held in the Heritage Room (ground floor) at Teachers Federation House, 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills.

A free bus service to Caucus will depart from the ICC at the close of Annual Conference on Sunday 5 July. Refreshments will be provided and delegates with children are welcome to bring them to the Caucus.

Aboriginal Members Caucus

Aboriginal delegates, Councillors and Alternates interested in attending Annual Conference Aboriginal Members Caucus are encouraged to attend lunch on **Sunday 5 July** at Market City, Haymarket.

Please meet outside the ICC to walk with us to Market City for lunch (noon–2pm). You can

also just arrive at on the Market City entrance on the corner of Hay and Thomas Streets at noon in the food and wine section on the ground floor to join us.

Please email aboriginaleducation@nswtf.org.au with any enquiries.

New Activists' lunch

The New Activists' lunch provides an opportunity for new delegates to Conference to meet and network with new and experienced delegates.

The lunch will be held from noon on **Sunday 5 July** at the [Pyrmont Bridge Hotel](#) (9 Union Street, Pyrmont). All delegates are welcome to attend.

LGBTIQA+ Special Interest Group lunch

The LGBTIQA+ Special Interest Group (SIG) is organising a lunch for 12.15pm on **Monday 6 July** at the Pyrmont Bridge Hotel in the rooftop terrace.

This lunch is an opportunity for LGBTIQA+ delegates and their allies to meet and catch up with other LGBTIQA+ SIG members. This is a social event at the participant's expense, and an excellent opportunity to meet teachers with a common interest.

Please RSVP via lgbtq@nswtf.org.au.

Don't want to receive emails from us?

[Unsubscribe here.](#)



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mail@nswtf.org.au

Our postal address is:

NSW Teachers Federation

Locked Bag 3010 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Australia

ABN 86 600 150 697

Authorised by Maxine Sharkey, General Secretary.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 AGENDA

SUNDAY, 5 JULY 2026 – DAY 1

8.00am – 9.00am

REGISTRATION AND ISSUE OF BADGES

9.00am – 9.20am

OPENING OF CONFERENCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Raymond Ingrey, President of NSW AECG Inc.

9.20am – 9.25am

ADOPTION OF AGENDA, ARRANGEMENTS AND STANDING ORDERS

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES 2025

9.25am – 9.55am

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR IN REVIEW & PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Henry Rajendra, President

9.55am – 10.15am

FINANCIAL REPORT

Maxine Sharkey, General Secretary

10:15 – 11:15am

REPORTS

Aboriginal Education Report

Russell Honnery, Aboriginal Education Officer

Women's Report

Leeanda Smith, Women's Officer

Disability Report

John Skene, Disability Officer

Multicultural Education Report

Mandy Wells, Multicultural Officer/Organiser

11.15am – 11.40am

FUTURE TEACHERS' SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTATION

Katinka Kastner, Membership and Training Officer

Future teachers who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Chelsea Mifsud

Future teachers from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Faiza Nagi

Future teachers from a rural or remote area

Holly Chapman

Future teachers (open to all applicants)

Dylan McBurnie

Rachael Anderson

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 AGENDA

Future teachers in their first year of a teacher education program

Lily Grant
Jack Jones

John Kaye Memorial Scholarship

Tekle Setargew

11.40am - 12pm

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

David Ferguson - Active Life Membership

Amber Flohm - Active Life Membership

Elizabeth Scott - Active Life Membership

12.00pm – 2.00pm

LUNCH

2.00pm – 2.15pm

SYDNEY TRADE UNION CHOIR

2.15pm – 2.45pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Alison Pennington, Chief Economist at The McKell Institute.

2.45pm – 3.45pm

STRIVING FOR A WORKER-SUPPORTIVE ECONOMY – THE ROLE OF UNIONS

Henry Rajendra, President

RECOMMENDATION

Henry Rajendra, President

3.45pm – 4.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Giridharan Sivaraman, Race Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission

4.00pm – 5.00pm

ANTI-RACISM THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION: THE CORNERSTONE OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Michael de Wall, Senior Vice President

RECOMMENDATION

Michael de Wall, Senior Vice President

5.15pm

BUSES LEAVE FOR WOMEN'S CAUCUS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 AGENDA

MONDAY, 6 JULY 2026 – DAY 2

9.00am – 9.15am

OPENING OF DAY TWO

PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Jason Tran, Canley Vale High School

9.15am – 9.45am

GUEST SPEAKERS

Emeritus Professor Wayne Sawyer, School of Education at Western Sydney University; and

Professor Nicole Mockler, Sydney School of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney

9.45am – 10.45am

PEDAGOGY, CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT, SCHOOLS AND TAFE

Natasha Watt, Deputy President

RECOMMENDATION

Natasha Watt, Deputy President

10.45am – 11.45am

MOTIONS FROM ASSOCIATION

11.45am – 12.00pm

MORE THAN THANKS – IT'S TIME

Campaign action

12.00pm – 1.30pm

LUNCH

1.30pm – 2.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Sharan Burrow AC, Chair of the Schools For Our Future Inquiry

2.00pm – 3.00pm

PUBLIC SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE NATIONAL INQUIRY

Henry Rajendra, President

Supplementary Report: Michael de Wall, Senior Vice President

RECOMMENDATION

Henry Rajendra, President

3.00pm – 4.00pm

STRATEGIC ORGANISING FOR TEACHER UNION RENEWAL IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Michael de Wall, Senior Vice President

RECOMMENDATION

Michael de Wall, Senior Vice President

4.00pm – 5.00pm

MOTIONS FROM ASSOCIATION

6.30pm for 7pm start

Annual Conference Dinner, ICC

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 AGENDA

TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2026 – DAY 3

9.00am – 9.15am

OPENING OF DAY THREE

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Lily Sumerta, Elizabeth Macarthur High School

9.15am – 9.45am

RULE CHANGES

Maxine Sharkey, General Secretary

9.45am – 10.45am

SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

Natsha Watt, Deputy President

Supplementary Report: John Skene, Disability Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Natsha Watt, Deputy President

10.45am – 12.00pm

MOTIONS FROM ASSOCIATION

12.00pm – 1.30pm

LUNCH

1.30pm – 2.30pm

REBUILDING WITH TAFE

Henry Rajendra, President

RECOMMENDATION

Henry Rajendra, President

2.30pm – 3.15pm

REPORTS

Membership Report

Jason Gerke, Deputy Secretary (Communications and Campaigns)
Katinka Kastner, Membership and Training Officer

LGBTIQA+ Report

Mel Smith, Deputy Secretary (Operations)

Centre for Professional Learning (CPL) Report

Margaret Vos, Director of CPL

3.15pm – 3.20pm

GUEST REPORT – Teacher Mutual Bank Update

Jade Coleman, TMB - Senior Partnership Manager

3.20pm – 4.30pm

UNFINISHED BUSINESS / CONCLUDING DEBATES

4.30pm – 4.50pm

CREDENTIALS REPORT

4.50pm – 5.00pm

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

MICHAEL DE WALL TOOK THE CHAIR**1. RULE CHANGES**

General Secretary, Maxine Sharkey, spoke to the rule changes report, as tabled and also proved on the conference portal. Ms Sharkey also used a PowerPoint presentation to describe the process to change the Branch Rules, as well as to explain the difference between the existing rules and the proposed changes to the rules. Ms Sharkey advised that the proposed rule changes need to be covered by majority of the conference.

In relation to the proposed rule changes to Branch Professional Officers, Ms Sharkey explained that proposed changes to the Rules are applying a light touch approach and attempt to address the main risks to the union regarding how the rules currently deal with their employment.

These proposed rule changes have been the result of consultation with the union's Rules and Structures Committee, as well as Federation's Executive. The changes seek to further clarify the status of a Branch Professional Officer as an employee of the union and that the process of undertaking an election is part of the selection process (not an elected position that is held by the Branch Professional Officer). If a member is successful at election, an offer of employment is made by the General Secretary via a letter of employment (which would need to be accepted to take up the Branch Professional Officer position).

In relation to proposed changes to Rule 15, this gives the Branch Executive an express power to terminate the employment of Branch Professional Officers for reasons including capacity, performance and conduct including serious misconduct. While the Branch Council also has the power to terminate a Branch Professional Officer for serious misconduct, often instances of serious misconduct warrant swift action. During consultation it was considered that Branch Executive should also be able to deal with those matters on its own initiative.

In regard to changes related to Conduct of Secret Ballots The union was required to formally respond to the AEC post-election report regarding the Rule that was "difficult to interpret or apply". Our response indicated that the union would consider making the change – to remove reference to facsimile as way to withdraw nominations, because the AEC doesn't have a fax anymore.

The second change was merely a suggestion from the AEC which we are not required to respond to, however we are happy to make the change requested as it assists in the AEC more quickly processing ballots and means we get the outcome of the election quicker – especially in very large ballots. (i.e. elections where all members are able to vote)

Maxine Sharkey (Officer) moved RECEPTION of the report, SECONDED by Natasha Watt (Officer) and CARRIED

A period of ten minutes question time was MOVED by Robert Bartulovich (Delegate), SECONDED by Jacob Fryatt (Delegate) and CARRIED

Recommendation 1:

Conference accepted the proposed changes to clarify the status of a Branch Professional Officer resulting to changes to Rules 12, 15, 22, 25, 26 and 32 as outlined in the Conference Papers

Maxine Sharkey (Officer) moved RECOMMENDATION 1, SECONDED by Natasha Watt (Officer) and CARRIED by majority vote

Recommendation 2:

Proposed Rule Change to Rule 31 - CONDUCT OF SECRET POSTAL BALLOTS as suggested by the AEC and outlined in the Conference Papers – i.e. to remove reference to facsimile from the Rules and enables the AEC to allow for progressive preliminary scrutiny which assists to avoid delay of processing postal ballots.

Maxine Sharkey (Officer) moved RECOMMENDATION 2, SECONDED by Natasha Watt (Officer) and CARRIED by majority vote