

teacher graduates

WHY JOIN THE UNION?

The AEU represents your profession

You will join more than 50,000 members in Victoria and more than 180,000 members nationally. Teacher graduates pay reduced membership fees in their first three years.

The AEU negotiates your pay and conditions

Teacher graduates in Victorian government schools earn more than \$59,000 — one of the best salaries for teacher graduates in Australia, negotiated by the AEU.

A 5% reduced workload in your first year gives you time and space to build your skills. This, too, was negotiated by the AEU.

Our Schools Agreement contains substantial benefits for teacher graduates. We seek the best possible conditions for all members and a real say in what happens at your school. And as an AEU member, you have a say in future negotiations.

The AEU provides professional development

Our wide-ranging PD program includes conferences and workshops designed for student teachers and graduates. We run PD on legal and industrial issues and on developing skills such as behaviour management and applying for jobs. Dozens more sessions are run by our partner, the Teacher Learning Network.

The AEU runs a New Educators Network

The New Educators Network connects



you to other new members and keeps you up-to-date with what's going on at the AEU. Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/new.educators/) is a place where you can talk to your peers and get involved in the education debate.

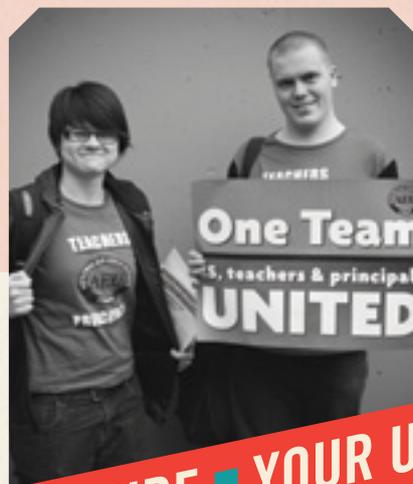
The AEU tackles the big issues

The AEU is a major voice in the education debate, campaigning for better funding, better facilities, more resources and more training opportunities in schools. Our goal is a fairer, more cooperative education system where all children have access to the best education, regardless of their background.

All this plus a wide range of other services

Being part of the AEU brings other benefits:

- Networking opportunities with other union members
- Member-owned banks — a better deal than the 'Big Four'
- Financial and superannuation advice
- Low-interest home loans
- Low-cost health insurance with Teachers Health Fund.



YOUR CAREER ■ YOUR FUTURE ■ YOUR UNION



For further information and assistance contact
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Here are some of the ways the AEU has helped its members

NICOLE

Nicole was working as an early childhood teacher when a child left her preschool unsupervised. After the child was found, Nicole rang the AEU for advice about her situation. The AEU advised her about her obligations under the Children's Services Regulations and accompanied her to an interview with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

MEAGHAN

Halfway through the year, teachers at Meaghan's primary school were fed up with the amount of work they were doing. Meaghan rang the AEU for advice and discovered she and her colleagues were working more contact hours than allowed in the Agreement. The teachers met and wrote to the principal. By Term 4, their teaching load was reduced by one hour to 22.5 hours per week, with a further one period reduction for graduate teachers.

For a worker to refuse to belong to a union is not to exercise a democratic freedom. It is to accept benefits that others have worked for without contributing to the costs.

BILL

Bill faced losing a day's pay to attend his graduation ceremony. His absence was reported as unpaid leave. But graduation leave of one day on full pay is an entitlement under the Award. Following action by his AEU organiser, Bill was paid his correct wages.

ANGELINA

Angelina lost her voice while teaching and was placed on WorkCover for a short time. Two years later, the problem recurred. WorkCover disputed her claim. She was referred to an AEU solicitor and won her case in the Magistrates' Court. An AEU organiser accompanied her to all appointments and court appearances.

JIAN

During her first year teaching Jian realised she was being paid \$3,000 less than a graduate teacher's annual salary. She contacted the AEU and received a cheque from her employer within a week. She received \$1,457 in back pay and was placed on her correct salary level.

ANDREA

Andrea, a graduate teacher, was asked to take a PE class (for which she was not trained). She was concerned about legal liability and the school's responsibility to support her. She contacted the AEU's Membership Services Unit, which sent her documents about liability and professional development. She took these to her school and was given the training and mentoring she needed.



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