



**Australian Education Union  
National Principals' Committee**

**Statement of Core Beliefs,  
Role and Action Plan**

**May 2009**

This statement was originally developed by the National Principals Committee of the Australian Education Union and endorsed by the Union's Federal Executive meeting in June 2004.

Amended May 2009.

# AEU NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF CORE BELIEFS

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**The AEU National Principals' Committee is committed to the support and enhancement of:**

- **Public Education;**
- **The Teaching Profession;**
- **Principals, Deputy and Assistant Principals.**

**We believe this is most effectively achieved through the unified voice of the AEU.**

This core commitment is best achieved through the efforts of principals, teachers and allied staff working together to enhance educational outcomes by encouraging a shared, school community wide commitment to the best possible teaching and learning.

Our efforts are supported by the:

- Implementation of agreed collaborative, school-based decision-making processes.
- Establishment of a school culture that encourages and supports the efforts of all staff working together to enhance educational outcomes, and which recognises and promotes the leadership role of teachers in this process.
- Recognition, encouragement and support of aspirant leadership.
- Protection and enhancement of the industrial and professional rights of Principals, Deputy and Assistant Principals.
- Commitment to cooperative working partnerships between public schools.
- Provision of forums and professional development to encourage innovative and creative strategies that support the leadership of Public Education.

**The core belief of the AEU National Principals' Committee is that public education is a keystone of a democratic society and that an important element of the role of Principals, Deputy and Assistant Principals, is the support and enhancement of the public education system.**

# ROLE OF THE AEU NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE

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The role of the AEU National Principals' Committee is to:

**i) Be the peak body representing principals on national issues and in national forums**

- influencing professional issues, policies and procedures;
- influencing and responding to government education developments and directions.

**ii) Advocate for principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions who are members of the AEU in the schools sector by:**

- promoting the role of principals within the AEU;
- addressing particular issues faced by principals in the context of their leadership role, union membership and support for AEU policy;
- improving salaries and working conditions;
- influencing educational and industrial policy; and
- providing forums for discussion.

**iii) Promote principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals and equivalent positions by taking on a leadership role in:**

- promoting AEU membership among principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions;
- strengthening the relationship between principals, teachers and other education workers in the AEU;
- strengthening the relationship between principals and AEU structures;
- providing members with direct access to current information; and
- providing feedback to state structures.

**iv) Promote public education:**

- promoting AEU campaign strategies among principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions;
- strengthening relationships with politicians, media, parents associations and communities to promote public education;

- influencing government education developments and directions;
- providing advice to Federal Conference/Executive on strategies to promote quality public education.

**v) Promote and support Indigenous education within the public education system:**

- encouraging and supporting Indigenous educators at all levels including principals/vice/assist/deputy;
- advocating for public schools with significant Indigenous enrolments;
- influencing policy that supports Indigenous educators and Indigenous students within our schools.

# ACTION PLAN FOR THE AEU NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE

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**Be the peak body representing principals on national issues and in national forums:**

- *influencing professional issues, policies and procedures;*
- *influencing and responding to government education developments and directions.*

## **STRATEGIES AT FEDERAL AND BRANCH/ASSOCIATED BODY LEVEL**

1. Federal office to designate an Officer with responsibility for the National Principal Committee to:
  - i) Maintain regular contact with the committee, particularly the chairperson.
  - ii) Identify national committees and forums requiring AEU Principal representation.
  - iii) Facilitate an exchange of information between the committee members via email etc.
2. Lobbying at State and Federal Level.
3. Ensure a significant National Principal Committee input into:
  - i) Forums and committees.
  - ii) Conferences and seminars.
  - iii) Public debate and the media.
4. Representation at conferences etc should be as AEU National Principals Committee members.
5. AEU to seek specific representation for NPC on relevant Government Committees.
6. Raise the profile of the NPC at the Branch/Associated Body level through regular communication to principals about the work and purpose of the committee and national and state/territory issues.

**Advocate for principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions who are members of the AEU in the schools sector by:**

- *promoting the role of principals within the AEU*
- *addressing particular issues faced by principals in the context of their leadership role, union membership and support for AEU policy;*
- *improving salaries and working conditions;*
- *influencing educational and industrial policy; and*
- *providing forums for discussion.*

#### **STRATEGIES AT FEDERAL AND BRANCH/ASSOCIATED BODY LEVEL**

1. Organise an AEU National Principal Leadership Conference.
2. Committee members actively and positively promoting union activism as a principal.
3. Branches and Associated Bodies designate an organiser /officer responsible for principals .
4. Federal office to facilitate regular contact across states/territories of organiser/designated officer (at national level) by teleconference/email.
5. Appropriate processes to be in place to ensure representation of principals within Branch/Associated Body, such as consultative committees etc with a Union Senior Officer included as a member.
6. Promote a relationship between the union and the professional associations at the national and the state/territory level with regular meetings between the groups.

**Promote principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals and equivalent positions by taking on a leadership role in:**

- *promoting AEU membership among principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions;*
- *strengthening the relationship between principals, teachers and other education workers in the AEU;*
- *strengthening the relationship between principals and AEU structures;*
- *providing members with direct access to current information; and*
- *providing feedback to state structures.*

### STRATEGIES AT FEDERAL AND BRANCH/ASSOCIATED BODY LEVEL

1. Contact newly appointed principals to offer support, information about union activities principals, etc.
2. Membership data to tag principal members to enable direct communication as a group.
3. Obtain email addresses of principal members for regular and direct communication.
4. Provide seminars / in-services etc on a variety of industrial / professional issues for principals.
5. Provide professional development on leadership for aspirant principals.
6. Seek union speaking rights at department meetings (national and state/territory) for the union Principal group.
7. Provide AEU badges to principal members.
8. NPC members to provide reports of Committee meetings via the appropriate Branch/Associated Body structures such as Executive, newsletters, etc.
9. NPC members to facilitate regular reporting to principal members at Branch/Associated Body level on state/national issues.
10. NPC members to report to broader membership on work of NPC.

### Promote public education:

- *promoting AEU campaign strategies among principals and vice/assistant/deputy principals or equivalent positions;*
- *strengthening relationships with politicians, media, parents associations and communities to promote public education;*
- *influencing government education developments and directions;*
- *providing advice to Federal Conference/Executive on strategies to promote quality public education.*

### STRATEGIES AT FEDERAL AND BRANCH/ASSOCIATED BODY LEVEL

1. NPC to actively engage in public education campaigns and to encourage the involvement of principals in their Branch/Associated Body.
2. Develop strategies with principal members at the Branch/Associated Body level for promotion of public education at the school level.
3. Coordinate campaigns with parent organisations.

4. Provide training for principals to be spokespersons in media for promotion of public education issues.
5. Ensure that principals representing the union have the right to speak publicly and freely on these issues.
6. Encouraging the promotion of public education to parents.