



Rosemary Richards award

Women Wanted –

Inaugural Rosemary Richards Award

Rosemary Richards was a proud feminist, unionist and educator. She was a respected leader, colleague and friend who played a crucial role in shaping the AEU as an organisation which reflects feminist principles. Sadly, Rosemary passed away in November, 2006 after a long battle with illness.

This award is in recognition of the significant contribution that Rosemary made to the AEU as an organisation and to all its members, women in particular.

Across the AEU, women's employment rights and women's union participation has been steadily advanced due to an active, committed and predominantly female membership, but challenges still remain.

The AEU Federal Executive has endorsed the establishment of the Rosemary Richards Award which will give an opportunity to a woman member to increase her skills and experience in the union's work at a state/territory/national or international level.

All financial women members of the AEU are encouraged to apply for the Award which is aimed to extend women members' experiences and participation at all levels of the AEU (or international public education union) by supporting initiatives including but not limited to:

- the design and implementation of a discrete project;
- the establishment of a work-shadowing arrangement or a mentoring arrangement;
- research or study experiences; and
- formal and/or informal training and development opportunities.

The scholarship is valued up to \$10,000 per year.

Applying for the Award

Women members should apply by filling out the nomination form on the AEU website and sending it to the AEU Federal Secretary, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006, clearly marked "Rosemary Richards Award".

An AEU Federal Executive Judging Committee will consider applications at its June meeting and the successful candidate will be informed as soon after as possible.

The award will hereafter be advertised in late March every year through the AEU's websites, journals and networks.

Rosemary Richards

Beginning her career in primary school teaching, Rosemary joined the Women and Girls in Education group in the 1970s. She was appointed as the ACT Coordinator for the Elimination of Sexism in



Rosemary draped in the AEU flag at a 2006 ACT branch tribute night, with son Sam and her sister, Pam.

Education and produced the major report Sexism in Education in the ACT.

She was the Secretary of the ACT Branch of the AEU (formerly the ACTTF) from 1987 and its President from 1990–1995. She was a member of the AEU Federal Executive from 1990-1995 and assisted in the formation of the national AEU.

To learn more about Rosemary, her work and life, go to <http://www.rosemaryrichards.com>

A full Background document, Application Form, and tribute to Rosemary is available on the AEU website www.aeufederal.org.au ❖

Strengthening TAFE ATSIEC

The AEU is seeking to fill several vacancies on the AEU National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Committee (ATSIEC) (TAFE Division).

ATSIEC TAFE is made up of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) educators working in various roles in TAFE colleges across Australia. As such, the business of the committee is conducted in a manner that is culturally appropriate.

The Committee:

- advises the AEU on issues pertinent to Indigenous TAFE education and broader issues.
- advises the AEU Federal Office on Indig-

enous TAFE education issues from your Branch or Associated Body.

- provides information to Branches and Associated Bodies about Indigenous TAFE education issues at a national level.

There are generally two face-to-face meetings per year. One is alongside the AEU's Annual Federal Conference, while the other is held in conjunction with an event or training program. The committees also meet by teleconference on an 'as-needed' basis.

This year TAFE ATSIEC is participating in the TAFE Lobbying event to be held in Canberra and we will also be reviewing the AEU TAFE Policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The

Committee will also be contributing to the Enrol to Vote and National Public Education Campaigns.

Branch and Associated Body representatives to the Committee are elected for a two year term with 2007 being an election year. However, the AEU is seeking observers in the interim as a means to filling those vacancies. Further information about the national committee elections will be made available in the near future.

Branches and Associated Bodies with vacancies on TAFE ATSIEC should contact Wayne Costelloe, Federal Aboriginal Education Officer, on telephone (03) 9693 1800 regarding sending observers to future meetings. ♦

