



Fair Work
Commission

DECISION

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009
s.189—Arrangement for conduct of an election

Australian Education Union
(E2025/147)

MR STEENSON

SYDNEY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Arrangement for conduct of election.

[1] On 1 September 2025 the Australian Education Union (the **AEU**) lodged with the Fair Work Commission (the **Commission**) prescribed information for an election to fill the following offices for a new term of office:

Federal Executive Members (General Division) from the following Branches:

New South Wales Teachers Federation Branch	(4)
Queensland Branch	(3)
Victorian Branch	(3)
Northern Territory Branch	(1)

Federal Executive Member from the following National Committees:

National ATSIEC	(1)
National Principals Committee	(1)
National Early Childhood Committee	(1)

[2] I note that federal rule 35(e)(i) of the AEU's rules also provide for a Federal Executive Member from the South Australian Branch (**SA Branch**). The organisation did not include this office in the prescribed information as the SA Branch has held a longstanding exemption under section 186 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (**RO Act**) in relation to several offices.

[3] Section 186 of the RO Act provides that the General Manager of the Commission may – if satisfied of the criteria set out in that section – grant an exemption from the default position, in the Chapter 7 of the RO Act, that the Australian Electoral Commission (**AEC**) conduct elections in registered organisations.

[4] The effect of the section 186 exemption granted to the SA Branch is that the Branch can arrange its own elections (using a non-AEC returning officer) in relation to several offices, including the office of Federal Executive Member from that Branch.¹ In 2016 and 2017, the Commission conducted a review of existing election-related exemptions and found that the SA Branch was complying with the requirements associated with its exemption.² Accordingly, the exemption was not revoked and continues to operate.

[5] I am satisfied that an election for the abovenamed offices is required to be held under the rules of the organisation and, under subsection 189(3) of the RO Act, I am making arrangements for the conduct of the election by the AEC.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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¹ Matter number R30096/1996. The exemption relates to particular offices and includes an exemption from the requirement that a ballot for those offices be a postal ballot.

² Matter number Q2016/75.



Australian Education Union

Federal Office

Ground Floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, Victoria, 3006
PO Box 1158, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205
Federal Secretary: Kevin Bates
Federal President: Correna Haythorpe

Phone : +61 (0)3 9693 1800
Fax : +61 (0)3 9693 1805
Email : aeu@aeufederal.org.au
Web: www.aeufederal.org.au

29/08/25

Mr Murray Furlong
General Manager
Fair Work Commission
GPO Box 1994
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: regorgs@fwc.gov.au

Dear Mr Furlong,

PREScribed INFORMATION FOR ELECTIONS in accordance with Section 189 *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and Regulation 138 *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009*

I, Nicole Calnan being the Deputy Federal Secretary of the Australian Education Union make the following statement:

1. I am authorised to sign this prescribed information in relation to elections which are required to be held for the undermentioned offices in this Union (Annexure A – Federal Executive Delegates).
2. I confirm that the following information is being lodged under subsection 189(1) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.
3. No rule alterations are pending that will impact the election.
4. This statement is lodged at least 2 months before nominations open for the required elections.
5. **Voting System and Number of Positions**

The elections that are required are set out in the table in Annexure A. The voting system shall be a collegiate electorate system in all cases.

The number of Federal Executive members representing the General Division in each branch is determined by the formula outlined in AEU Federal Rule 35(2).

The number of financial members of the General Division in each Branch as at 30 June 2025 are:

New South Wales	54 429
Northern Territory	1 818
Queensland	41 814
Victoria	40 527

6. **Dates and Times**

As determined by the Returning Officer in accordance with the relevant Branch Rules.

Federal Rule 35 specifies the dates and times by which the elections for the above Federal Executive Member positions must be completed.

Provisions of the various Branch Rules specify the times and procedures to be followed in relation to the elections for these positions.

7. **Closure of the Roll of Voters**

Federal Rule 30 (4) states that the roll of voters is to be closed seven days before the day on which nominations open.

8. **Branch Secretary Contacts**

The Branch Secretaries to contact for lists of members and other necessary information in relation to the elections for the Branches are:

New South Wales Teachers Federation Branch
Maxine Sharkey
Locked Bag 3010
Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Email: mail@nswtf.org.au

Victorian Branch
Erin Aulich
PO Box 363
Abbotsford Vic 3067
Email : melbourne@aeuvic.asn.au

Northern Territory Branch
Rachael Metcalfe
PO Box 41863
Casuarina NT 0811
Email: admin@aeunt.org.au

Queensland Branch
Kate Ruttiman
PO Box 1750
Milton BC QLD 4064
Email: qtu@qtu.asn.au

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Calnan
Acting Federal Secretary

ANNEXURE A - Elections that are required for Federal Executive Delegates 2026-2027

BRANCH	NAME OF OFFICE	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER REQUIRED	VOTING SYSTEM	REASON FOR ELECTION	ELECTORATE
NSWTF	Federal Executive Member – General Division	1 March 2026 – 29 February 2028	4	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from members of Branch Council assigned to the General Division of the Branch (Federal Rule 35 (1)(d))
QTU	Federal Executive Member – General Division	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	3	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from members of Branch Council assigned to the General Division of the Branch (Federal Rule 35 (1)(d))
Victoria	Federal Executive Member – General Division	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	3	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from members of Branch Council assigned to the General Division of the Branch (Federal Rule 35 (1)(d))
Northern Territory	Federal Executive Member – General Division	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	1	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from members of Branch Executive assigned to the General Division of the Branch (Federal Rule 35 (1)(e))
Federal	Federal Executive Member – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	1	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from members of the Yalukit Yulendj (General and TAFE Divisions) (Federal Rule 35 (1)(g))
Federal	Federal Executive Member – National Principals	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	1	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from the National Principals' Committee (Federal Rule 35 (1)(h))
Federal	Federal Executive Member - Early Childhood Education	1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028	1	Collegiate	The current term of office expires on 28 February 2026	Elected by and from National Early Childhood Committee (Federal Rule 35 (1)(i))

Important dates:

	Direct Voting System	Collegiate Electoral System
Nominations OPEN		To be determined by returning officer.
Nominations CLOSE		To be determined by returning officer.
Roll of Voters cut-off date		7 days prior to nominations opening (Federal rule 30 (4))