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Hundreds of teachers urge NT government to abandon attack on teacher registration

Northern Territory teachers have rejected the NT government's plan for a radical shakeup of teacher registration, which is expected to be debated in parliament this week.

In less than 24 hours, more than 300 supporters [signed a joint IEU/AEU petition](#) calling on the government to withdraw, reconsider or amend the *Education Standards and Registration Board Bill 2026*.

Teachers are concerned about the bill's plan to merge the existing Teacher Registration Board and Board of Studies into one board composed of just seven handpicked ministerial appointees.

The move would compromise the independence of the teacher registration board, lower the standards of education in the NT and put the safety of children at risk.

If the community is to retain confidence in NT schools, the government must rethink this plan.

Quotes attributable to Terry Burke – Branch Secretary, IEU-QNT:

"This bill should concern every parent of a school-aged child in the Northern Territory," Mr Burke said.

"The organisations charged with the important duty of monitoring the quality of school staff will be operating with less oversight and fewer resources – that can only lead to a poorer education system.

"The government has not adequately explained what was wrong with the existing two board structure where seats are provided to teachers', principals' and parents' representatives alongside other stakeholders.

"The removal of legislated representation for unions means teachers can be excluded from the board of an organisation that is funded by their own registration fees.

"This is a plan with no purpose other than weakening a system in no need of fixing," Mr Burke said.

Quotes attributable to Brian Gray – President, AEU NT:

"These radical changes would remove all genuinely independent oversight of decisions about teachers and teaching in the NT," Mr Gray said.

"The only possible reason a government could have for doing this is to clear the way to lowering teacher standards and getting more underpaid, under-qualified people into NT

classrooms – instead of offering salary increases that keep pace with the rest of the country to recruit and retain Australia’s best teachers for the NT.

“Every other state and territory in Australia has an independent board or a statutory authority to oversee matters as important as teacher registration.

“For 20 years, the representational structure of the board has guaranteed its independence. This bill puts that at risk.

“This is a government take-over of what should be a professional body, run by teachers, funded by teachers’ registration fees, to regulate the teaching profession,” Mr Gray said.

The joint IEU/AEU petition can be found here:

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/protect-nt-schools>

ENDS

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