



YEARS OF  
**135**  
ACHIEVEMENT  
1889-2024

The professional and industrial voice of Queensland's teachers and school leaders in state schools and TAFE for more than 135 years.

# Who's who in the QTU

The QTU has offices and Organisers based in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Springwood and the Gold Coast.

[www.qtu.asn.au](http://www.qtu.asn.au)    Advice and information: [www.qtu.asn.au/qtad](http://www.qtu.asn.au/qtad)    Join the QTU: [myQTU:](#)  
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## QTU Reps

The Union Rep is the first point of contact with the QTU. They are serving teachers elected by their colleagues to represent the Union in the workplace. They provide advice and support, organise local campaigns, arrange workplace meetings and recruit new members. There are also Lead Union Reps, who are trained to assist QTU Organisers, and Principal Union Reps, who provide a school leader perspective on education and industrial issues.

## Branches and Area Councils

QTU members in every school in a given area belong to the local branch. This branch, in turn, has representation at a regional level on an Area Council, which is represented on Council and Conference and can bring issues forward for debate.

## Council and Conference

State Council (meeting four times a year) and Conference (once every two years - the next being in June) are the supreme decision making bodies of the Union. Each branch and Area Council throughout the state is represented, as are TAFE members.

## The Executive

The QTU Executive consists of the Senior Officers, along with 14 serving teachers, including an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative and a member from the TAFE Division, all elected by State Council. It manages Union affairs between State Council meetings. Its members chair and occupy positions on many Union committees and outside bodies.



**Liam Holcombe**

Liam is a head of department at Harristown SHS, Branch Secretary and Lead Union Rep. He is a member of the Appointments Committee and Professional Issues Committee.



**Kate Kermode**

Kate is a special education teacher at Lee Street State Special School. An Area Council President, and State Council Rep, she also sits on the Working Conditions and Appointments Committees and chairs the Special Education Committee.



**Natalie Montague-Clarke (on leave)**

Currently part-time at Manly SS, Natalie is a primary school teacher. She sits on the QTU's Agenda, WTGE, Working Conditions Committees and chairs Professional Issues. She also served on the QCT Board.



**Cassie Munro**

Cassie is a career primary teacher who has worked exclusively in the public sector, with experience in city, rural and remote areas. She currently teaches year six at Ferny Hills SS.



**Amanda Power**

Amanda, the First Nations member on Executive, is a Djaara and Bangarang woman. She started teaching in Gladstone in 1997 and presently teaches a 1/2 composite class. She is the chair of Gandu Jarjum.



**Nick Shirley**

On Executive for more than 15 years, Nick has been principal of small, medium to large primary schools since 2007, dedicating most of his teaching service to rural and remote schools. He is now principal of Cannonvale SS.



**Scott Tibaldi**

Scott, the TAFE representative on Executive, is an LVT responsible for CERT II (Career Start Schools) and CERT III Electrotechnology at TAFE Queensland Skillstech Bracken Ridge, where he has taught since 2007.

One Executive position is currently vacant

## Senior Officers

The QTU's Senior Officers all have a teaching background. The President, Vice-President and Honorary Vice-President are elected by the members. They preside at meetings of Executive, Council and Conference and are responsible for the implementation of their decisions. They also handle media and community relations. The General Secretary and two Deputy General Secretaries are elected by State Council and have primary responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Union.



**Cresta Richardson**

President  
Cresta has been a primary classroom teacher, acting deputy principal and head of curriculum. She has also served as Vice-President and a QTU Trustee.



**Leah Olsson**

Vice-President  
Leah started teaching in 1997 as a music specialist and taught in Wide Bay, Redlands, Logan and Cairns.



**Josh Cleary**

Honorary Vice-President  
Elected Honorary Vice-President in 2023, Josh is a deputy principal at Noosa District SHS who has taught in both rural and metropolitan schools.



**Kate Ruttiman**

General Secretary  
Kate was an economics and English teacher who taught in Middelmount, Kenmore and Lowood. She is the QTU's first female General Secretary.



**Brendan Crotty**

Deputy General Secretary  
A manual arts teacher who taught in Tambo, Charleville and Park Ridge, Brendan was a QTU Organiser before being elected Deputy General Secretary.



**Leah Mertens**

Deputy General Secretary  
Before being elected Deputy General Secretary, Leah also served as QTU Women's Officer and Research Officer-Professional Issues.

## The Trustees

The four QTU Trustees are members appointed by State Council to manage the Union's capital investments.



**Jenni Holmes**

Jenni is an experienced senior teacher at Tully State High School. Jenni was first elected as a Trustee in 2019.



**Don Mengel**

Don is a head of department at Kingaroy State High School. Don was first elected as a Trustee in 2015.



**Anne Rathmell**

Anne is head of the Bunya Campus of Dalby State High School. She was first elected as a Trustee in 2015.

One Trustee position is currently vacant

## The secretariat

These Brisbane-based officers, again all from a teaching background, provide advice on specific areas of expertise and respond to general enquiries from members. They provide advice to Senior Officers, Executive, Council and Conference, as well as representing the Union in negotiations.



**Mark Anghel**

Assistant Secretary - Services/Legal



**Micheal Beale**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer (acting)



**Paige Bousen**

Assistant Secretary - Education Leaders



**Gill Crotty**

Women's Officer & Social Welfare Issues



**Thalia Edmonds**

Assistant Secretary - Industrial Advocate



**Lin Esders**

Research Officer - Professional Issues



**Cindy Freier**

Resourcing Review Project Officer (acting)



**Rebecca Hack**

Professional Development Officer



**Kevina O'Neill**

Assistant Secretary - Services/Welfare



**Kim Roy**

Assistant Secretary - Industrial/Research



**Chris Shevelling**

Assistant Secretary - Industrial Advocate/Legal (acting)



**Craig Wood**

Research Officer

## Organisers

There are 13 Regional Organisers and a Membership Growth Organiser to serve members across the state. All former teachers themselves, they attend branch meetings where possible, liaise with district offices and take up members' concerns with departmental representatives and administrators.



**Maika Bailey**

Logan Redlands (acting)



**Sammy Blocksidge**

Far North Queensland



**Lynn Cowie-McAlister**

Memb. Growth (on leave)/Met. West Logan (acting)



**Dan Coxen**

Central Queensland



**Kelly Creedon**

Logan/Redlands (on leave) / Membership Growth (acting)



**Mel de Waard**

Metropolitan North



**Meegan Jackson**

Sunshine Coast



**Jodie McFadden**

Gold Coast



**Natalie Montague-Clarke**

Metropolitan South (acting)



**Chris Munro**

North Queensland



**Caleb Rook**

Metropolitan Central



**Zeb Sugden**

South Queensland TAFE



**David Terauds**

TAFE



**Ben Vercoe**

Metropolitan South (on leave)



**Scott Welch**

Wide Bay