

Run by teachers, for teachers

The professional and industrial voice of Queensland's teachers and school leaders in state schools and TAFE for more than 130 years.



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.

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.



Sammy Blocksidge (on leave)
Far North Queensland

Lynn Cowie-McAlister
Membership Growth

Dan Coxen
Central Queensland

Kelly Creedon
Logan/Redlands



Mel de Waard
Metropolitan North Logan

Elissa Ferguson
Metropolitan West Logan

Meegan Jackson (on leave)
Sunshine Coast

David King
Far North Queensland (acting)



Jodie McFadden
Gold Coast

Chris Munro
North Queensland

Caleb Rook
Metropolitan Central (acting)

Chris Shevelling
Sunshine Coast (acting)



Zeb Sugden
South Queensland

David Terauds
TAFE

Ben Vercoe
Metropolitan South

Scott Welch
Wide Bay

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.



Lisa Broadhurst
Lisa has a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) and has been teaching in state primary schools for 10 years. She has been a Union Rep, Branch President, State Council and Conference Delegate, and has acted in Officer and Campaign Coordinator roles.



Josh Cleary
Josh is deputy principal at Noosa District SHS. A teacher since 2007, he has acted in QTU Organiser and Industrial Advocate roles. Josh was elected to Executive in 2020.



Peter Darben
A senior teacher of science specialising in biology, Peter teaches at Cavendish Road SHS. From 2009-2015 he was the teaching coordinator at SPARQ-ed. He is a QTU representative on the Workload Advisory Council.



Shane Hancock
Shane is deputy principal at Fernbrooke SS. A teacher since 1995, he has taught in various contexts, including rural and remote, urban, itinerant, international, Indigenous, distance education, environmental education and low socio-economic schools.



Beck Humphreys (on leave)
Beck has taught across primary, junior and senior secondary, and teaches at Barcardine Prep-12 SS. She is on the QTU's Agenda and Working Conditions Committees and the LGBTQ+ sub-committee.



Tom McCartney
Tom is acting deputy principal at Kingston SS. He was elected to Executive in 2020, and is also Co-Chair of the QTU RAP Working Group.



Natalie Montague-Clarke
Natalie is a teacher at Manly SS. She has taught from prep to year six in the Gold Coast and Redlands, but predominantly in Logan. She has also worked in intervention. Natalie is on the QCT Board and the QCT Professional Standards Committee.



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. Cassie has been a Workplace Rep for more than 20 years.



Paula Nunan
Paula has taught for more than 30 years, as a classroom teacher, ST:laN, acting principal, project officer, education adviser and district relieving teacher, and from P-12. She has been a Branch Secretary and President, Area Council President, and State Council and Conference Delegate.



Amanda Power
Amanda, the First Nations member on Executive, is a DjaDja Wurrung woman. She started teaching in Gladstone in 1997 and presently teaches prep in Gladstone. She is the chair of the QTU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education committee Gandu Jarjum.



Nikki Roos
Nikki has been a classroom teacher for 23 years, and is a proud advocate for early childhood education. She has taught in a range of settings, including rural and remote, inner city, low SES and P-10, and currently teaches at Taigum SS.



Nick Shirley
A QTU member since he commenced teaching at Cherbourg State School in 2002, Nick has since been a principal of small, medium to large primary schools, and is currently principal at Lawnton SS.

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.



Beck Humphreys (on leave)
Beck teaches at Barcardine Prep-12 SS. She became a Trustee in 2021.



Andrew Thompson
Beginning as a manual arts teacher at Inala Special School in 1992, Andrew is currently principal of Redlands District Special School. He is Chair of QTU's Special Education Committee and a member of the Educational Leaders Committee.



Scott Tibaldi (TAFE)
Scott is the LVT responsible for CERT II (Career Start Schools) Electrotechnology at TAFE Queensland Skillstech Bracken Ridge, where he has taught since 2007. Prior to teaching, he accrued 34 years of trade experience.

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



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



Jenny Swadling
Honorary Vice-President
A teacher for 34 years, Jenny is Principal at Charleville School of Distance Education. She has also been a QTU Trustee.



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



Brendan Crotty
Deputy General Secretary (Member Organising)
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 (Member Services)
Before being elected Deputy General Secretary, Leah has also served as QTU Women's Officer and Research Officer-Professional Issues.

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



Gill Armit
Assistant Secretary - Women's and Social Welfare Issues



Rachel Bos
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer



Paige Bousen
Assistant Secretary - Education Leaders



Thalia Edmonds
Assistant Secretary - Industrial Advocate



Lin Esders
Research Officer - Professional Issues



Toby Fitzroy
Assistant Secretary - Industrial/Research (acting)



Cindy Freier
Resourcing Review Project Officer (acting)



Rebecca Hack
Professional Development Officer



Beck Humphreys
Campaign Communications Project Officer (acting)



Anthony Luck
Assistant Secretary - Industrial Advocate/Legal (acting)



Kevena O'Neill
Assistant Secretary - Services/Welfare



Kim Roy (on leave)
Assistant Secretary - Industrial/Research



Craig Wood
Research Officer