

The Australian Education Union has established the Schools For Our Future infrastructure inquiry to examine the current state of classrooms, buildings and facilities in public schools and make recommendations about what's required for the future.

Chaired by former AEU and ACTU president Sharan Burrow, the inquiry began in March and is now seeking submissions. The inquiry's terms of reference are available on the website.

An important way to contribute to the inquiry is for union members working at a school to come together and make a joint submission.

Your collective insights will inform the work of the inquiry and help shape the final report which will be released later this year.

The submission can be as short or as long as you like. Supporting evidence such as photos or videos can be uploaded at the same time as you lodge the joint member submission.

While you will be required on the website to give the name of your school, that will not be disclosed in the inquiry's report or on the website without your permission. Any individual contact information will remain confidential.



***Scan here to make your
submission before June 30th.***

Submission Guide

What to include in your submission

The inquiry is looking at the adequacy of classrooms, amenities, other learning spaces, playgrounds and facilities at school and what needs to change to ensure the needs of every child can be met into the future.

Here are three areas to consider and some questions you might want to discuss before writing the submission. You can address all or some of these or just focus on what you think the inquiry really needs to know about your school.

The physical condition of your school

- Overall, how would describe the physical condition of classrooms, buildings, amenities and outdoor areas? Is the school fully accessible?
- Are there any pressing safety or maintenance issues or issues with heating and cooling?
- In what ways does your school's physical environment positively or negatively impact the motivation, engagement and wellbeing of staff and students?
- Does the condition of your school's buildings and equipment contribute to inequities in learning, wellbeing and participation?

Classrooms and learning spaces

- Do classrooms and learning spaces limit or enable teaching practice and in what ways? What changes would help improve instruction, student engagement and learning?
- Are there adequate spaces to meet the needs of diverse learners, such as well-located withdrawal or breakout areas, wellbeing hubs, therapy areas, cultural spaces or dedicated areas for one-on-one support? If not, what upgrades would make the biggest difference?
- Does the school have enough specialist learning areas and facilities (music, arts, science, vocational, library etc)? What additional spaces are needed?
- How would you describe the availability and quality of technology at the school (interactive whiteboards, assistive technologies, devices, learning platforms, Wi-Fi)? What is needed?

Facilities and amenities

- Do children have safe, inclusive outdoor environments with enough shade and safe equipment?
- Are there adequate spaces for staff to work, collaborate and meet with families? Are there changes needed?
- Are the bathrooms for students and staff adequate or need to be upgraded?

How to lodge your joint member submission

Once you have prepared your submission it can be uploaded via the dedicated page of the Schools for our Future website.

As a first step, choose the option to make an organisation or group submission. Then select union members at a school as the organisation type. Once you have entered the relevant contact details you can upload the submission.

Submissions can be made until June 30, 2026. If you have questions or need assistance, contact your union organiser.