

## Your workplace contact

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### Naomi Footit Penrith Public School

I have been the Federation Representative at Penrith Public School since 2012.

At first, I was a little overwhelmed in the role as I felt like I didn't know enough about the position, but going to the two-day Trade Union Training really helped me gain confidence in the role.

Attending local Association meetings helps too and I always walk out feeling a little more informed.

I am lucky to teach at a school that has a fairly harmonious working environment. Everyone is quite supportive of one another. Most issues that pop up are dealt with quickly and my role usually just involves sharing some information.

Over the years it has been rewarding to be able to help some members with personal issues, but once again, my role is just making sure that members have access to all of the available information that Federation provides.

We have a small workplace committee at my school. Women's Contact Lacey Power has been in her role as long as I have been Fed Rep and we work together really well. She has been incredibly helpful.

If teachers are considering putting their hand up to be the Federation Representative at their school, I would encourage them to do so. Being the Fed Rep has taught me so much about democratic processes and the importance of our profession working together to benefit public education students.

Being the Fed Rep was not stressful for me personally during COVID- 19, and I put that down to the fact the Federation was communicating really effectively every step of the way.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with family and friends outdoors. I particularly love being in the bush or at the beach.

