The Australian Education Union Northern Territory (AEU NT) has entered into a self-indulgent public campaign that will cause major disruption to parents and students.

Minister for Public Employment John Elferink has condemned the AEU NTs plans to reschedule their strike from tomorrow afternoon to a full-day on Friday, and says it is clear display of confusion and chaos within the Union ranks.

“The AEU NT has made a decision only to retract it a short time later, causing confusion and inconvenience to parents who need to make alternate arrangements for their children,” Mr Elferink said.

“Parents who have already made alternate arrangements for their children for Tuesday afternoon’s planned strike action, are now forced to make new plans and accommodate the AEU NTs sudden change of mind.

“If even Mr Cranitch admits that “mucking parents around” is the outcome, then they clearly need to reconsider their disruption plans and scrap this selfish agenda which will see Territory teacher’s benefit from a long weekend.

“The AEU NTs actions are putting the educational outcomes of students on the backburner.

“Children should be at the forefront of these decisions and it is clear we are not seeing this.

“The Northern Territory Government is focused on developing better outcomes and results for students, now and into the future, and I would urge the AEU NT to put more energy into this rather than causing widespread disruption.

“Instead of neglecting students and inconveniencing parents with further strike changes, the AEU NT should get back into the classroom and take their issues back to the EBA negotiating table.

“The AEU NT has already been banned by Fair Work Australia from taking industrial action once for providing poor advice to their members. This was clearly out of line and shows a lack of responsibility.

“The AEU NT is causing more damage to the educational outcomes of students than any policy they could ever dream up.

“I strongly encourage teachers to refrain from taking part in Friday’s industrial action.”

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