

## **OPENING PLENARY: THE ROLE OF THE RESSO**

### **SPEAKER 3: Sarah Roberts, NTEU – National Industrial Officer**

#### **Background**

Ressos roles have changed as student organisations have grown and become more 'corporatised'.

Ressos skills are drawn on in various ways. There has been growth in the role of ressos, including in industrial matters and advising employers above their role.

- eg. What are industrial issues surrounding closing down office?

Ressos approaching student reps. regarding workplace issues

At the same time, there has been a rising tendency of student orgs to gain legal representation from corporate law firms.

The NTEU has a national strategy for EBA Bargaining negotiations for student organizations – set standards which no organization can fall below. However, there remain broad disparities in conditions between ressos at different institutions. There is a need to review the national strategy and what conditions need to be changed.

#### **Idea for discussion (NOT a solid proposal)**

- 1 Set up a separate national branch for NTEU members in student organizations.
- 2 Concept of an 'employer organization for student organizations' (provide sound advice and reduce costs)

#### ***DISCUSSION***

NTEU Branch:

- Could further isolate Ressos from Branch
- Guaranteed position on branches? National Council?