

## **WORKSHOP – NTEU**

In Sarah's presentation to the RESSO conference she outlined a couple of possibilities. These possibilities are not firm plans or intentions of the union but ideas to kick around.

Firstly, the formation of a separate branch for staff of student organizations, and secondly, supporting a move whereby the students – our employers – organize into one body that deals with industrial issues.

Workshop participants engaged in discussion about focusing on how these proposals may benefit staff of student organizations.

- this has not come from staff of student organizations or an audit of their needs
- concerns staff of student organisations may be further marginalized from the NTEU branches on their campuses
- concern that ultimately this was a 'palming off' by the union, cutting down the numbers of people they would need to liaise with
- discussion about whether this was a resource issue
- concern about lack of knowledge among NTEU staff about student organizations and staff, or rather what is in their best interests

Generally, the 2 suggestions were not considered the most effective way to deal with industrial issues that arose for staff of student organizations.

Participants identified that staff of student organizations had different jobs and different working conditions when compared to academic staff.

### **Outcomes:**

1. Form an industrial working group to highlight issues for staff, variances in agreements, memberships levels and dates of negotiations, casual v. permanent, etc.
2. Consider an NTEU conference for staff of student organizations (for example, like the Women's Conference).
3. Ask NTEU for a summary of initiatives pertaining to staff of student organizations over the last few years and to explain the context of this proposal so that staff can give appropriate feedback.