

CAMPUS MORNING MAIL

Hard facts and insider analysis

From Stephen Matchett



Super expensive

The **union proposal** for **universities** to pay their **casual staff** the **17 per cent employer contribution** to **superannuation** permanent employees enjoy would cost more than **\$700m over four years** according to the **Australian Higher Education Industrial Association**. The demand is one of the **enterprise bargaining claims** the **National Tertiary Education Union** has presented to **universities** around the country.

According to **AHEIA**, its modelling is based on **low salary growth** and below trend casual staff growth and it **does not include** fixed term **contract staff**, who are also covered by the **National Tertiary Education Union's** demand. However **AHEIA** says that even without them the proposal would quickly add **\$200m** a year to the **university systems super spend**, which would then **increase annually**.

“This week we’ve seen renewed speculation that universities will **suffer a 2-3% budget cut** in the upcoming **federal budget**. At a time when universities are facing increasing budget pressure, the NTEU’s claim for all university staff to receive 17% super is simply out of touch,’ says **AHEIA executive director Stuart Andrews**.

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