

21 March 2017 – EA Bargaining Meeting

Another EA negotiation meeting was held on 21 March 2017, with discussions continuing on the package of proposals put to Curtin during the previous week by the NTEU. The matters discussed included:

- The ongoing applicability of internal review committees;
- Conversion of fixed-term staff to continuing status;
- Whether it is appropriate to include Indigenous employment targets in an enterprise agreement (without there being real commitments/obligations from Curtin, staff and unions also built into the agreement to help reach these targets);
- Salary; and
- Superannuation.

Curtin understands that a key issue for the NTEU is their proposal to increase superannuation payments to 17% for all staff. Currently, casual staff and some fixed-term staff do not receive 17%. The cost of implementing this proposal is over \$8 million per annum and around \$35 million over the term of a new agreement.

Superannuation discussions focused on:

- How an increase in superannuation to 17% would be received politically when universities are lobbying government about inadequate funding but on the other hand are able to pay superannuation at levels well above the 9.5% received more generally in the community; and
- How implementing the superannuation proposal would increase costs which could negatively impact on the two areas that staff have told us are of highest concern – job security and increasing workloads.

The Fair Work Commission was scheduled to provide bargaining assistance at a meeting on 28 March 2017, but this has now been delayed by mutual agreement of all the bargaining parties. We will continue negotiation meetings in April, at a date yet to be set.