

What is a "Heads of Agreement" And why we should oppose it



**A rank and file public forum
July 26 Wednesday 5pm
G03 (Lower theatre) Babel Bldg**

There's a debate emerging about the future of our campaign for a new Enterprise Agreement at Melbourne Uni. Our branch leadership is talking about exploring a "Heads of Agreement" approach to rapidly settling a new EA. We ended up with a "Heads of Agreement" approach in our last two Enterprise Agreement campaigns (2013 and 2018). Obviously, the results were not great – leaving us with the current EA which allows management to keep their model of chronic understaffing and insecure work.

We have other options apart from going for a "Heads of Agreement" approach. An alternative path would involve doubling down on our log of claims, not walking away from it. We should be popularising our claims and getting them in front of as many people as possible. We should be intensifying our organising efforts, and ensuring the solid organising in Arts is spread to as many places as possible.

Based on experience from the last two rounds of bargaining, some members of the Branch Committee and Strike Committee believe that shifting to a "Heads of Agreement" approach is a seriously mistaken course. **Katie Wood** was one of 3 members to vote against it at a recent Branch Committee meeting. The entire NTEU membership should be involved in this debate, get informed about "Heads of Agreement" deals and make our own decisions about the direction of our industrial campaign.