NO UNI MERGER!



The WA State Government announced on 10 October 2026 that it will undertake a business case on the proposal to merge Curtin University, the University of Western Australia and Murdoch University into a single university.

The NTEU is campaigning alongside the student guilds to oppose this merger. Staff at universities across the country have lived through mergers and restructures, and their experience is that these processes all too often bring job cuts and higher workloads, without solving governance problems.

Promises that a merger will bring scale, better student outcomes and stronger research rest on aspiration, not evidence. For example, the new Adelaide University is 40% below its international enrolment target, leaving a $90m shortfall, with no sign yet of better research outcomes.

We call on the State Government to withdraw the proposal for a university merger, and to instead enact real governance reform at WA universities in the interests of students, staff and the higher education sector.

nounimerger.com

What you can do:

👉 Sign the staff petition against the merger
📣 Join the upcoming rallies and public meetings
💬 Talk to your colleagues & friends about the merger
✊ Join the NTEU today!

Visit nounimerger.com for links, resources, updates and more.

National Tertiary Education Union
Let's aim higher

join.nteu.au

Authorised by Dr Scott Fitzgerald, NTEU WA Division Secretary

No uni merger!

"Business case" puts corporate interests first

We're deeply concerned that the government has set up a "business case" study into a merger that reflects corporate interests. The 12-member Steering Committee examining the business case is expected to report by mid-2027, yet it includes only one representative for university staff and one representative for students.

If the government wants to consider options for reform of higher education in WA, the voices of staff and students should be central rather than sidelined by corporate interests.

Disruption and job cuts are staff's biggest concerns

An NTEU WA survey of staff from across WA's five universities on attitudes towards the merger found opposition is decisive: 69% of respondents are opposed to a merger, with opposition being strongest at the three affected universities.

Staff cited potential job cuts as a key concern, and pointed to the disruptive South Australia university merger precedent as a key reason why they oppose the merger. Staff are committed to our students and our universities as public education institutions, and we don't want to see them put at risk by a disruptive merger.

A merger is not the answer

There are serious problems in the higher education system in WA and nationally. But a corporate merger is not the answer. The NTEU is calling for real governance reform of WA's universities in the interests of staff, students and the broader community. This means tackling unchecked corporatisation, outrageous executive pay, the lack of transparency in the governance of these institutions, and the structural exploitation and underpayment of casual workers.

For a start, we need a State Senate inquiry into university governance at WA, as has happened federally and in NSW.

Fight back: Join the NTEU!

Staff get ONE voice on the government's Steering Committee, and that is the NTEU. Join the union today to get involved in the campaign, and stand together with university staff across WA to say NO to the uni merger. **Visit join.nteu.au to join today!**

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