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Australian Services Union  
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# media release

for immediate release

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Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

## COURSE CUTS AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND CAUSE JOB LOSSES

One of Toowoomba's largest employers, the University of Southern Queensland, is set to lose up to 130 staff after cutting 260 courses.

According to reports, the cuts would mean that 40 jobs in Administration, 35 in Corporate Services, 10 in facilities, and 45 academic positions would go as the University looks to save \$8.5 million a year in costs.

The Australian Services Union (ASU), which represents general staff at USQ, had been in discussions with the University about how to avoid redundancies prior to the announcement yesterday.

The University had advised that it may need to reduce staff numbers but had previously stated that it expected job losses to occur through natural attrition rather than redundancies.

ASU Assistant Branch Secretary, Mary-Anne O'Neill said, "We feel that the University has been distracted by having to comply with the Howard Government's workplace reforms rather than attending to its core business of attracting students and providing quality courses.

Our members are rightly concerned about their careers in this regional city which relies heavily on large employers like USQ. We're very concerned that staff may be forced to move if they lose their jobs at the University.

Staff employed at universities are already under workload stress due to constant rounds of restructuring and poor management practices. We're concerned about the added pressure on those that remain at the University."

The union is disappointed that the announcement was made to staff before meetings planned for December, to discuss how redundancies may be avoided, had occurred.

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