

MINUTES – EMPLOYEE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (ECG) MEETING

Friday, 20 March 2015

Parliament House, Room 1R3

Present:

Mr David Hughes	Office of the Hon Tony Abbott MP
Ms Louisa Macphillamy	Office of Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Ms Rosemary Little (via teleconference)	Office of the Hon Peter Dutton MP
Mr Chris Browne	Office of the Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Ms Cathy Heidrich	Office of Mr Mark Coulton MP
Ms Fiona Ross (via teleconference)	Office of Ms Sharon Claydon MP
Mr Ben Maxfield	Office of the Hon David Feeney MP
Ms Kris Cruden	Office of the Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Mr Andrew Blake	Office of Senator Christine Milne
Ms Kathy Casey	Office of the Special Minister of State
Ms Kim Travers	Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
Ms Joanne Knight	Australian Services Union
Ms Kim Baker	Department of Finance (Finance)
Mr Luke Kostava	Finance
Mr Daniel Rautio	Finance

Apologies:

Mr Brendan Gullifer	Office of Senator John Madigan
Ms Elisabeth Bateson	Office of the Hon Gary Gray AO MP

Meeting Opened: 9.05am
Meeting Chair: Ms Kris Cruden
Meeting Closed: 9.48am

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

- Ms Cruden opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.
- Ms Casey introduced herself in her capacity as the Special Minister of State's ECG representative.

Agenda Item 2 – Business Arising

- N/A.

Agenda Item 3 – Enterprise Agreement Bargaining

- Ms Travers requested an update on the progress of enterprise agreement negotiations and sought clarification on several issues relating to enterprise agreement bargaining.
- Ms Baker advised the ECG that the Department of Finance (Finance) is still in the process of briefing the Special Minister of State (SMOS). Consistent with advice provided in previous meetings, Ms Baker reiterated that Finance will negotiate the next enterprise agreement in accordance with requirements set out Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy.
- Ms Travers suggested that as preparation for bargaining meetings can be lengthy, Finance could consider issuing the Notice of Employee Representational Rights (NERR) sooner than the minimum two week statutory period. Ms Baker agreed to consider Ms Traver's suggestion.
- Ms Travers raised a number of other logistical concerns relating to the bargaining process, such as security arrangements at Parliament House and the ability of bargaining representatives to meet before each bargaining meeting. Ms Baker informed the ECG that arrangements will be made to facilitate access to Parliament House, and that further consideration can be given to these issues once the bargaining group has been determined.

Agenda Item 4 – Parking at Parliament House for MOP(S) Act employees

- Ms Cruden requested an update on parking arrangements that may be made for MOP(S) Act employees working at Parliament House.
- Ms Baker and Ms Casey noted that the Presiding Officers, in conjunction with the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), are responsible for parking arrangements at Parliament House. Accordingly, Ms Baker advised that she could not provide any further information.
- Ms Cruden requested that to the extent possible, Finance update members of the ECG regarding Parliament House parking arrangements for MOP(S) Act employees.

Action Item

- Finance to seek further information from DPS regarding Parliament House parking arrangements for MOP(S) Act employees.

Agenda Item 5 – Excess (Canberra) Travel Leave (ECTL)

- Ms Ross requested information regarding how eligibility to access ECTL is determined.

- Mr Rautio explained that Finance completes a periodic review to help the SMOS determine which employees should have access to ECTL. Mr Rautio also explained the review methodology and advised that irrespective of when the review is completed, employees can request that the Special Minister of State consider approving access to ECTL for particular work bases.

Agenda Item 6 – Salary Packaging

- As Mr Gullifer was an apology and unable to speak to this agenda item, the ECG agreed to carry this agenda item to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Other business

- Mr Hughes relayed the work health and safety concerns of a MOP(S) Act employee based in Perth. Ms Little suggested these concerns be raised at the Work Health and Safety Committee (WHSC).

Agenda Item 8 – Next meeting

- Finance agreed to review the parliamentary calendar for 2015 and propose a date for the next meeting of the ECG.