

Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2020-23
Bargaining Group

MEETING RECORD

Friday, 15 November 2019

10:00am – 1:00pm

Parliament House, Room 1S3

Present:

Name	Office / Organisation
Lynn Bonanno*	Mr George Christensen MP
Mark Briers	Senator the Hon Anne Ruston
Michael Heydon	Senator Slade Brockman
Hayley Holloway*	Mr Ted O'Brien MP
Simon Kelly*	Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Helen Lewis*	The Hon Stuart Robert MP
Rosemary Little	The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leonie Lloyd-Smith*	Mr Rowan Ramsey MP
Josh Manuatu	The Hon Angus Taylor MP
Tom Pretty	The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Loretta Sist	The Hon Simon Birmingham MP
Nathan Winn	Mr Bert Van Manen MP
Kim York	Senator Rex Patrick
Poni Ravula	Australian Services Union (ASU)
Bryce Wilson	ASU (Mr David Smith MP)
Eleanor Kennedy*	Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
Ron Johnson	CPSU
Kate Sutherland	CPSU (Ms Lisa Chesters MP)
Kellie MacNaughtan	CPSU (The Hon Mark Dreyfus MP)
Trish Cowcher	CPSU (Senator Jordon Steele-John)
Steven Mammarella	Minister for Finance
Dana Sutton	Department of Finance
Tony Nairn	Finance
Luke Kostava	Finance
Jo Fernandez	Finance

* via telephone

Apologies: Luke Barnes (Mr Dave Sharma MP), Kim Hall (CPSU – Ms Sharon Claydon MP), Mick Jones (ASU), Rudi Oppitz (ASU)

Meeting Chair: Mr Tony Nairn

Meeting opened: 10:05am

Meeting closed: 12:45pm

Item 1 – Welcome and introductions

- Ms Sutton opened the meeting and welcomed all the attendees. Attendees introduced themselves. Apologies were noted.

Item 2 – Outline of administrative processes

- Ms Sutton outlined the bargaining arrangements and expectations, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of participants.
- Mr Nairn detailed administrative arrangements for bargaining. The Minister for Finance has responsibility for *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employment and the EA, as the delegate of the Prime Minister. Finance will conduct the EA negotiation on behalf of the Minister.
- Mr Nairn suggested that bargaining representatives may choose to have their contact details made available on the EA Bargaining webpage. Finance can be contacted throughout the negotiation process via eacomment@finance.gov.au.

ACTION ITEM
01/19: Finance to ask bargaining representatives to provide any contact details to be published on the EA Bargaining webpage.

- Mr Nairn advised that Finance will draft a record of each of the bargaining meetings, and circulate to bargaining representatives for comment. Finance will then publish the meeting record on the EA Bargaining webpage.
- Mr Nairn noted that communications to all staff will be through the website and also through regular email updates.
- Mr Nairn explained the arrangements for replacement employment and travel for employee bargaining representatives approved by the Minister as Determination 2019/22, published on the MaPS website. Ms Kennedy asked whether replacement employment applies to proxy members of the CPSU bargaining team.

ACTION ITEM
02/19: Finance to clarify whether replacement employment applies for proxy/substitute representatives.

- Ms Kennedy asked how many employees were issued the Notice of Employee Representational Rights. She also requested the number of ongoing, non-ongoing and casual employees, including whether full-time or part-time and whether personal or electorate or their classification, if possible.

ACTION ITEMS
03/19: Finance to provide bargaining representatives with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the number of staff who received the Notice of Employee Representational Rights○ a breakdown of MOP(S) employee numbers by ongoing, non-ongoing and casual; full-time and part-time; and personal or electorate employees or by classification.

Item 3 – Bargaining process

- Mr Nairn explained the indicative bargaining process and timeline:
 - Stage 1 – commencement of bargaining and appointment of bargaining representatives. This stage is complete.
 - Stage 2 – the current stage where bargaining on proposals for the EA is conducted.
 - Stage 3 – the Government undertakes its internal approval processes for the EA, makes a remuneration offer and concludes bargaining.
 - Stage 4 – the ballot for the proposed EA is held. If the EA has majority staff support, it is submitted to the Fair Work Commission and, if approved, the EA commences seven days later.

Item 4 – Bargaining policy

- Mr Nairn outlined the features of the Government’s Bargaining Policy and how it applies to bargaining for a MOP(S) Act enterprise agreement.
- Mr Nairn explained that while approval of a remuneration offer would be the same as for APS agencies, the source of funds for a remuneration increase may differ because funding arrangements for parliamentarians and their staff are different.

Item 5 – Draft EA and Government proposals

- Finance distributed a working draft of the next EA, based on the existing agreement, and a document explaining the Government’s significant proposals.
- Mr Nairn noted that the working draft agreement is a starting point. Mr Nairn explained each of the Government’s proposals.
- There was general discussion on the proposals and, in particular, of the proposal to allocate electorate staff allowance (ESA) to employees, not positions.
- Discussion on the draft EA will continue at the next meeting.

Item 6 – Other business

- The ASU advised that it anticipates providing its bargaining position prior to the meeting scheduled for 22 November 2019.

ACTION ITEM
04/19: Finance to list ASU bargaining position on the agenda for discussion at the meeting scheduled 22 November 2019.

NEXT MEETINGS

- The next meetings are scheduled for 10:00am-1:00pm Friday, 22 November 2019 and Friday, 29 November 2019 at Parliament House, Canberra. A further meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 12 December 2019.