

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

MEETING RECORD

Friday, 6 March 2020

10:00am – 2:00pm

Parliament House, Room 1S5

Present:

Name	Office / Organisation
Luke Barnes	Mr Dave Sharma MP
Mark Briers	Senator the Hon Anne Ruston
Lynnis Bonanno	Mr George Christensen 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
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)
Alison Byrnes*	ASU (The Hon Sharon Bird MP)
Brydan Toner	ASU (Dr Mike Freelander MP)
Bryce Wilson	ASU (Mr David Smith MP)
Ron Johnson	Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
Eleanor Kennedy	CPSU
Trish Cowcher	CPSU (Senator Jordon Steele-John)
Kim Hall	CPSU (Ms Sharon Claydon MP)
Kellie McNaughtan*	CPSU (The Hon Mark Dreyfus MP)
Briony Roelandts	CPSU (Senator Jenny McAllister)
Kate Sutherland	CPSU (Ms Lisa Chesters MP)
Steven Mammarella	Minister for Finance
Dana Sutton	Department of Finance
Tony Nairn	Department of Finance
Jo Fernandez	Department of Finance

* via telephone

Apologies: Mick Jones (ASU), Luke Kostava (Department of Finance)

Meeting Chair: Tony Nairn

Meeting opened: 10:00am

Meeting closed: 1:20pm

Item 1 – Welcome and introductions

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

Item 2 – Business arising

- Ms Sutton noted the meeting record for the previous meeting was circulated for comment. The meeting record was agreed.
- Mr Johnson emailed an information request on 2 March 2020 regarding superannuation calculations. This was responded to on 5 March 2020.
- Open Action items
 - 5/20 – Finance is not in a position to provide a schedule of upcoming meetings at this stage and will send a meeting request for the next meeting as soon as practicable.
- Mr Barnes clarified that in the previous meeting, they requested information on parliamentary allowances for ACT senators and members as an action item.
- Mr Johnson queried whether claim 28 has been specifically tested with the APSC, relating to superannuation being paid during both paid and unpaid parental leave. Mr Johnson requested further consideration be given to this issue.
- With prejudice to their claim, the CPSU requested that the Department consider whether the EA could be amended to allow:
 1. The various types of Parental Leave to be taken at half pay; and
 2. An increase from 2 weeks to 3 weeks Paid Supporting Partner Leave (as has been recently achieved at AGD, for example).

ACTION ITEMS
6/20: Finance to provide information on parliamentary allowances available to ACT senators and members.
7/20: Finance to circulate response to Mr Johnson’s information request regarding superannuation calculations.

Item 3 – Government responses to proposals

- Time was provided to review the Minister’s response document.
- Mr Nairn continued tabling the Minister’s responses to representatives’ claims.
- Mr Kelly noted that some employees are administering grants instead of Government departments. He asked if the savings these departments achieve from this can be ‘passed on’ to offset any claims. Mr Nairn noted that this would be administratively not possible and any savings would have been claimed from the respective portfolios.
- Mr Wilson expressed that the Government’s response to claim 85, relating to providing NAIDOC leave, is out of step with community expectations.
- The meeting discussed partner leave. Mr Barnes asked how many employees have accessed Supporting Partner Leave.

- The meeting discussed Excess Travel (Canberra) Leave. Representatives expressed that this should be calculated based on how many sittings weeks there are per year.
- The meeting discussed TOIL. Mr Toner expressed that there is a risk that staff who lose employment due to the death of their employing parliamentarian would lose their TOIL entitlements.
- Further responses to claims will be tabled at a later meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
8/20: Finance to provide how many employees have accessed Supporting Partner Leave.

Item 4 – Other business

- It was agreed that a meeting would be held to continue the presentation of the Minister’s responses to representative claims. CPSU asked that the holding of the ballot be discussed in the upcoming meeting, which was agreed.

ACTION ITEMS
9/20: CPSU to email Finance a list of questions about the enterprise bargaining ballot.