

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

MEETING RECORD

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

04:30pm – 6:00pm

1R2, Parliament House and by Govteams

Present:

Name	Office / Organisation
Luke Barnes	Mr Dave Sharma MP
Lynnis Bonanno	Mr George Christensen MP
Daniel Frost-Foster	The Hon Trevor Evans 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
Tom Pretty	The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Nathan Winn	Mr Bert Van Manen MP
Kim York*	Senator Rex Patrick
Mick Jones*	Australian Services Union (ASU)
Poni Ravula*	ASU
Bryce Wilson	ASU (Mr David Smith MP)
Alison Byrnes	ASU (The Hon Sharon Bird MP)
Brydan Toner	ASU (Dr Mike Freeland MP)
Ron Johnson*	Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
Eleanor Kennedy*	CPSU
Kim Hall*	CPSU (Ms Sharon Claydon MP)
Kate Sutherland*	CPSU (Ms Lisa Chesters MP)
Steven Mammarella	Minister for Finance
Dana Sutton	Department of Finance
Luke Kostava*	Department of Finance
Jo Fernandez	Department of Finance

*Via GovTEAMS

Apologies: Mark Briers (Senator the Hon Anne Ruston)

Meeting Chair: Dana Sutton

Meeting opened: 4:35pm

Meeting closed: 6:30pm

Item 1 – Introduction and apologies

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

Item 2 – Business arising

- Open action items
 - 18/20 – Open – Finance to consider Mr Johnson’s amendments to the minutes for the meeting held on 27 November 2020.
 - 19/20 – Complete – Finance has considered an alternative timetable noting other views from representatives.
- Ms Sutton noted that there is a matter continuing with the Fair Work Commission and provided a brief overview. Mr Johnson provided a summary of the submissions made by the CPSU to the Deputy President, noting that these had been circulated to all bargaining representatives by the CPSU. Mr Jones also confirmed that ASU had rejoined the proceedings and reiterated the concerns raised by the CPSU regarding the application of the 2020 Policy and the pay pause, including a request that the Minister seek an exemption under the Policy. Ms Sutton noted that the Government had considered and responded to these matters, including in relation to a response to claim by the ASU.
- The meeting discussed replacement employment. Ms Sutton noted that this issue had previously been discussed and that 20 days’ replacement employment remains available to employing parliamentarians who have staff that are taking part of the bargaining process, but there was no intention to supplement these arrangements across-the-board. Ms Sutton invited bargaining representatives facing specific challenges to contact the Department to further discuss.

Item 3 – Government responses to claims

- Mr Kostava outlined Government responses to claims.
- Ms Kennedy asked if Finance could put ‘reasonable hours’ on the agenda of the next ECG meeting.

ACTION ITEMS
20/20: Finance to add ‘reasonable hours’ on the agenda of the next ECG meeting.

Item 4 – Government remuneration proposals

- Mr Kostava outlined the Government’s remuneration proposals.

Item 5 - Discussion of final proposed enterprise agreement

- Mr Kostava outlined additional changes in the final proposed enterprise agreement.
- Mr Johnson asked if Finance could circulate the savings arising from the discounts on the pay increases for staff not receiving the general salary adjustments– Mr Kostava indicated that it was likely to be processes internal to government, but that we could take it on notice.
- Mr Wilson asked if Finance could circulate the values of WPI used to estimate costs. Ms Sutton indicated she would take it on notice.
- Mr Johnson asked for Finance to amend the wording of clause 19.1 (Retention payment) of the proposed enterprise agreement to reinsert the reference to “will be paid” as per the current EA subclause 20.1.

ACTION ITEMS
21/20: Finance to consider circulating the savings arising from the discounts on the pay increases for staff not receiving the general salary adjustments.
22/20: Finance to consider circulating the values of WPI used to estimate costs.
23/20: Finance to consider amending the wording of clause 19.1 of the proposed enterprise agreement.

Item 6 – Other business

- Ms Byrnes enquired if scrutineers could oversee the ballot process. Ms Sutton indicated it was an electronic vote, so there was not a physical tally room, but agreed to take this on notice.

ACTION ITEMS
24/20: Finance to consider allowing scrutineers to observe the ballot process.

Item 7 – Next steps

- The meeting discussed preferences for when to undertake the ballot. The majority of representatives agreed that holding a ballot before the end of the year was preferable. The ASU did not support this position. Ms Sutton noted the Minister for Finance would consider all of the representations made and make a decision regarding the timing of the ballot, noting that the draft timetable provided to bargaining reps made it clear that if the ballot was scheduled 18-23 December 2020, the seven day access period would commence 10 December 2020.