

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

MEETING RECORD

Friday, 27 November 2020

11:00am – 2:00pm

GovTEAMS

Present:

Name	Office / Organisation
Luke Barnes	Mr Dave Sharma MP
Mark Briers	Senator the Hon Anne Ruston
Lynnis Bonanno	Mr George Christensen MP
Michael Heydon	Senator Slade Brockman
Simon Kelly	Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Helen Lewis	The Hon Stuart Robert 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)
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)
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

Apologies: Rosemary Little (The Hon Peter Dutton MP), Brydan Toner (ASU, Dr Mike Freeland MP)

Meeting Chair: Dana Sutton

Meeting opened: 11:05am

Meeting closed: 12:45pm

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

- Open action items
 - 9/20 – Open - CPSU indicated that they would email Finance a list of questions about the enterprise bargaining ballot.
 - 10/20 – Completed – Noting COVID-19 restrictions, Finance will continue to hold meetings via GovTEAMS unless they can find a suitable alternative at the Australian Parliament House.
 - 11/20 – Completed – Finance circulated Government responses before the meeting.
- Ms Sutton addressed the information request received by the CPSU on 26 November and confirmed that Finance would also reply in writing.
- Ms Sutton clarified that the *2020 Workplace Relations Policy* applies for all bargaining going forward and that the previous policy only applies to remuneration proposals approved by the APS Commissioner before the 2020 Policy came into effect.
- Ms Sutton noted that 6 month pay pause will apply from the commencement of the new Enterprise Agreement.
- Mr Johnson expressed the view that the 8 month deferral of bargaining combined with the 6 month pay pause would result in MOP(S) Act employees being treated far more detrimentally than all other Commonwealth public sector workers, during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further to these views, Mr Johnson, asked management to explain the reason or reasons why MOP(S) Act employees were being treated more detrimentally than other Commonwealth Public Sector employees. Ms Sutton indicated that as previously noted each agency under the Policy bargains individually and it is the Government’s position that the pay pause will apply from the commencement of the Enterprise Agreement, but was otherwise happy to take the question on notice.

Item 3 – Government responses to claims

- Mr Kostava tabled a new Government proposal which would clarify the basis of casual employment under the MOP(S) Act, and align the definition of ‘work base’ for casual employees with the period covered by their employment agreement.
- Ms Kennedy sought clarification on the rationale for why claim 96 was not agreed. Ms Sutton took this on notice.
- Mr Kostava provided an overview of an additional 25 Government responses to claims.
- Mr Johnson asked how many claims are outstanding and if Finance could circulate a list of outstanding claims. Ms Sutton indicated there were approximately 12 outstanding claims relating to leave and ESA arrangements.

ACTION ITEMS
12/20: Finance to clarify claim 96.
13/20: Finance to consider outstanding claims.

Item 4 – Other Business

- Mr Johnson indicated that the CPSU would submit a new claim relating to a model clause on pandemic leave. He asked Finance to send existing policies on pandemic leave to assist the CPSU to prepare a model pandemic leave clause for consideration.
- Ms Sutton noted that the CPSU had also recently submitted a new claim in relation to a model clause on sexual harassment and gendered violence, which would be considered.
- Mr Jones noted the ASU would reconsider claim 142 regarding reasonable additional hours and may submit a revised claim for consideration.
- Mr Johnson asked for a proposed schedule for a ballot to allow for discussion. Ms Sutton invited the CPSU to submit any questions regarding the ballot to allow these matters to be considered and incorporated into any timetable
- Mr Johnson asked how many IFAs had been agreed for MOP(S) Act employees.

ACTION ITEMS
14/20: Finance to provide information on existing policies on pandemic leave to the CPSU.
15/20: CPSU to submit further claim and provide a model clause on pandemic leave for consideration.
16/20: Finance to consider providing a proposed timetable for the ballot.
17/20: Finance to consider further information request regarding IFAs.

Item 5 – Next meeting

- The next meeting is on 4 December 2020 at 11am-2pm. Finance advised that it would explore the option of meeting in person, subject to availability of Parliament House.