

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

MEETING RECORD

Friday, 30 April 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm

2S3, 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
Michael Heydon*	Senator Slade Brockman
Rosemary Little*	The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leonie Lloyd-Smith*	Mr Rowan Ramsey MP
Tom Pretty*	The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Kim York	Senator Rex Patrick
Poni Ravula	Australian Services Union (ASU)
Alison Byrnes*	ASU (The Hon Sharon Bird MP)
Bryce Wilson	ASU (Mr David Smith MP)
Ron Johnson*	Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
Eleanor Kennedy*	CPSU
Kim Hall*	CPSU (Ms Sharon Claydon MP)
Trish Cowcher*	CPSU (Senator Jordan Steele-John)
Kate Sutherland*	CPSU (Ms Lisa Chesters MP)
Steven Mammarella	Minister for Finance
Dana Sutton	Department of Finance
Jillian Flinders	Department of Finance
Luke Kostava	Department of Finance
Jo Fernandez	Department of Finance

*Via GovTEAMS

Apologies: Mark Briers (Senator the Hon Anne Ruston), Mick Jones (ASU), Brydan Toner (ASU), Dr Mike Freeland MP)

Meeting Chair: Dana Sutton

Meeting opened: 11:05pm

Meeting closed: 11:50pm

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
 - 13/21 – Open – Finance is continuing to consider the request to provide further breakdown of the data regarding Bullying and Harassment training. This data cannot be easily compiled as it requires marrying up multiple data sets.
 - 14/21 – Complete – Finance considered if they had sought advice from the APSC, the Attorney General’s Department or the Fair Work Ombudsman on staff working beyond usual hours who are unable to use TOIL. Finance does not comment on the consultations that it has undertaken with other agencies. Ms Sutton noted the ASU had subsequently lodged a formal claim on a similar issues by email on 22 April 2021 which would be considered and responded to in accordance with good faith obligations.
 - 15/21 – Complete – In relation to the request to advise if Finance had lodged a remuneration offer with the APSC, Finance noted that the Government maintains its position that its internal processes are not relevant to bargaining and will not comment on the status of those processes. Ms Sutton indicated that the obligation under s228 of the Fair Act does not require disclosure of internal deliberations which is consistent with the views expressed recently by the Fair Work Commission. Ms Sutton noted that the CPSU sent a similar information request on 27 April 2021 that Finance would consider in accordance with its usual processes.
 - 16/21 – Complete – Finance held an ECG meeting on 28 April 2021.
 - 17/21 – Complete – Finance considered the variety of views expressed regarding the updated enterprise bargaining timetable. On balance, Finance considered that the original proposed timetable is appropriate.
 - 18/21 – Complete – Finance considered providing information on the split between Government and Non-Government employees who have received a ‘Salary Above the Range’. Similar to a previous requests, Finance does not consider this data to be relevant to bargaining and noting that information is already published in Estimates.
- Ms Sutton noted that the CPSU had recently provided comments on the record for the meeting on 16 April 2021 which Finance would consider.

Item 3 – Government responses to bargaining claims

- Mr Kostava outlined responses from the Government for six matters.
- The meeting also discussed the claim for staff mobile data allowance to be paid for, which was not agreed by the Government. Representatives expressed that staff often have to rely on their personal mobile data to conduct official business when they do not have another reliable connection. Ms Sutton noted her understanding that under the Parliamentary Business Resources framework, parliamentarians’ office budgets can be used to pay for data allowances. Ms Sutton agreed to confirm this.
- Ms Sutton noted that Finance expects to provide an iterative draft of the enterprise agreement early in the next week.

ACTION ITEMS

19/21: Finance to confirm that mobile data allowances can be paid for with parliamentarians' office budgets.

Item 4 – Other business

- Ms Sutton noted that a Fair Work Commission listing would be held on 6 May 2021.
- Mr Wilson asked that Finance respond to his email of 22 April 2021 relating to TOIL. Ms Sutton indicated that Finance would respond to his email as a claim with a formal response.
- Ms Sutton asked representatives that when they are communicating with Finance about bargaining matters, to make it clear if they are making a new formal claim so it can be responded to appropriately and in accordance with the good faith bargaining obligations.
- The next meeting will be held on 14 May 2021.