Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Minister for Trade and Tourism
Special Minister of State
Senator for South Australia

Key Points

- I have agreed to commence bargaining for a new enterprise agreement for *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees.

MIN 2026/01

All parliamentarians
All MOP(S) Act employees

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT STAFF ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT – COMMENCEMENT OF BARGAINING

The *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2024-2027* nominally expires on 5 August 2027. I have agreed to commence bargaining for a new enterprise agreement for *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employees.

Enterprise bargaining involves formal negotiations between an employer, employees and unions for an enterprise agreement. It provides an important opportunity for employees to have their say on pay and conditions. I encourage employees to be involved.

Notice of Employee Representational Rights (NERR)
In accordance with the requirements of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, MOP(S) Act employees will shortly be provided with a Notice of Employee Representational Rights (NERR). Employees should read the NERR carefully, as it sets out your representational rights during the bargaining process.

Travel and replacement employment during bargaining

For the purpose of facilitating bargaining for the next enterprise agreement, I have made a determination under subsection 13(2) of the MOP(S) Act that:

- permits a bargaining representative to travel to negotiation meetings without their associated travel costs being debited from their employing parliamentarian's electorate support budget, where applicable; and
- provides a parliamentarian whose employee is a bargaining representative with 20 days of replacement employment during the bargaining period at the classification of the bargaining representative, or a lower classification.

Appointment of a Lead Negotiator

To support an effective bargaining process, I have appointed the Department of Finance to undertake bargaining on my behalf, with Scott McWhirter as Lead Negotiator.

The Lead Negotiator will represent the employer in discussions with unions and individual bargaining representatives, with support from the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Bargaining Team.

Don Farrell

24 November 2026