



Ref: 2012/445

NTPS FIRE-FIGHTERS' BULLETIN 1/2013

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIONAL RIGHTS IN ENTERPRISE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

Fire-fighters' Enterprise Agreement Negotiation to Commence

The current Northern Territory Public Sector Fire and Rescue Service 2011 – 2013 Enterprise Agreement is due to expire on 7 November 2013. Under the *Fair Work Act 2009* I am required as the employer to advise employees of my intention to initiate bargaining for a new agreement. Attached for your information is the required statutory *Notice of Employee Representational Rights* advising of this and of employees' representation rights in relation to the bargaining process.

Bargaining Representatives

The *Fair Work Act* imposes rights and obligations on employers, unions and employees with respect to the bargaining process. As the attached notice explains, if you are a member of a union that is entitled to represent you, your union will be your bargaining representative for the enterprise agreement unless you appoint another person as your bargaining representative or represent yourself. If you wish to appoint another person as your bargaining representative or represent yourself, the appointment must be in writing and a copy of the instrument of appointment must be provided to the employer. This can be presented at the initial bargaining meeting or forwarded beforehand to my office at the following address:

Attention: Employee Relations
Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
GPO Box 4371
Darwin NT 0801

Initial Bargaining Meeting

The initial bargaining meeting is scheduled as follows:

11am Tuesday 6 August 2013
Top End Room, 4th floor, Harbour View Plaza

Bargaining representatives are asked to please contact my office on 8999 4282 to register their attendance at bargaining meetings.

More Information

Regular Bulletins and Information Sheets on the bargaining process and proposals will be posted on the OCPE website under the [Enterprise Agreement Negotiation Updates page](#). Information on bargaining in general can be obtained at www.fairwork.gov.au or for more detailed information on the roles of bargaining representatives visit [Fair Work Commission's Bargaining & Workplace Determinations](#) webpage. You can also contact the Fair Work Commission Infoline on 1300 799 675.

KEN SIMPSON
30 July 2013

Notice of employee representational rights

(regulation 2.05)

Fair Work Act 2009, subsection 174 (6)

The Northern Territory Commissioner for Public Employment gives notice that it is bargaining in relation to an enterprise agreement (Northern Territory Public Sector 2013 Enterprise Agreement) which is proposed to cover employees that are employed in the Northern Territory Public Sector.

What is an enterprise agreement?

An enterprise agreement is an agreement between an employer and its employees that will be covered by the agreement that sets the wages and conditions of those employees for a period of up to 4 years. To come into operation, the agreement must be supported by a majority of the employees who cast a vote to approve the agreement and it must be approved by an independent authority, Fair Work Commission.

If you are an employee who would be covered by the proposed agreement:

You have the right to appoint a bargaining representative to represent you in bargaining for the agreement or in a matter before Fair Work Commission about bargaining for the agreement.

You can do this by notifying the person in writing that you appoint that person as your bargaining representative. You can also appoint yourself as a bargaining representative. In either case you must give a copy of the appointment to your employer.

If you are a member of a union that is entitled to represent your industrial interests in relation to the work to be performed under the agreement, your union will be your bargaining representative for the agreement unless you appoint another person as your representative or you revoke the union's status as your representative.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this notice or about enterprise bargaining, please speak to either your employer, bargaining representative, go to www.fairwork.gov.au, or contact the Fair Work Commission Infoline on 1300 799 675.