

NTPS GENERAL BULLETIN 29/2013

This bulletin applies to employees covered by the NTPS 2010–2013 Enterprise Agreement*

New Offer put to Unions for NTPS General Enterprise Agreement

As you are aware the result of the recent ballot was very close, with only a handful of votes affecting the outcome. You may also be aware only 4 947 ballots were admitted to the count out of 11 293 employees who were eligible to vote, meaning some 6 346 employees did not lodge or have their vote counted

Today I met with bargaining representatives (unions) to put a new offer to them for an NTPS 2013 – 2017 Enterprise Agreement.

I recognise that provisions relating to job security have been a concern for some employees. As a result, my new offer is the same as that put to the ballot recently but with the following concessions:

- removal of my claim to reduce the current redundancy notice periods.
- removal of the additional wording that was proposed under clauses 13.3 (Objectives) and 44.1 (Security of Employment), i.e: removal of the words *“For the avoidance of doubt, this commitment relates solely to the effects of the costs of the salary and allowance increases in the Agreement and at the time they are paid. It does not include changes that can arise from machinery of government changes (eg agency restructuring), budget savings measures, and the like that arise out of policy decisions of the Northern Territory Government from time to time.”*

The new offer provides that the initial salary increase of 3 per cent is to be paid from the first pay period to commence on or after the date of my offer, which means it will be paid from 10 October 2013. Importantly and in response to the unions’ concerns, the new offer provides for the future salary increases to be from the first pay periods to commence on or after 9 August 2014, 9 August 2015 and 9 August 2016.

Unions to respond

I have sought the support of the unions for my new offer by close of business Thursday 10 October 2013, so that a supported ballot can be conducted quickly in order to provide the best chance for employees to receive the first salary increase in their pay packets in time for Christmas.

However, I have also foreshadowed to the unions that if they do not support the offer, I will be putting the new agreement to a ballot with the proposed concessions.

Participating in the ballot?

As noted the result of the recent ballot was very close, with only a handful of votes affecting the outcome. The outcome of the ballot could have been different if 53 more of the votes received supported the agreement.

When the new agreement does go to ballot, I strongly urge all employees to participate in the vote. As you can see your vote is important and can make a difference.

Where to from here?

I will keep you informed of the process and timing of the ballot following the bargaining representatives response.

More Information

To keep you informed the OCPE has a webpage dedicated to enterprise agreement negotiations under the [Enterprise Agreement Negotiation Updates page](#).

The website will be updated regularly with the latest information on negotiations, including bulletins, information sheets and other material.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Simpson".

KEN SIMPSON
Commissioner for Public Employment

9 October 2013

**Employees covered by other enterprise agreements e.g. Power and Water, Teachers, Medical Officers, Nurses, Dentists, Fire-fighters, Prison Officers, Port Corporation, Marine Pilots and Police are not covered by this agreement*