

NTPS GENERAL BULLETIN 30/2013

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

VOTE on an Improved NTPS 2013-2017 Enterprise Agreement

On 9 October 2013 I made concessions and put an improved offer to the bargaining representatives (unions). The unions have advised me that the improved offer is rejected and have made further claims that are outside the parameters of the [NTPS Wages Policy](#). I am unable to accede to these claims and we are at an impasse in the negotiations.

However, I believe these recent concessions, particularly those concerning job security, will be supported by the majority of employees and I have therefore decided to put the improved proposed enterprise agreement to a formal ballot.

The proposed NTPS 2013-2017 enterprise agreement, to be distributed on Monday, contains the same terms as the proposed agreement put to ballot in September except for the concessions, salary increase dates and the typographical corrections identified since the last ballot as follows:

- removal of my claim to reduce the redundancy notice periods (refer Schedule 10 clause 5.2)
- removal of my additional words relating to involuntary redundancies and job losses from clauses 13 and 44
- the first 3% pay increase effective from 10 October 2013 (in accordance with the wages policy)
- retention of future pay increase dates of 3% in August 2014, August 2015 and August 2016
- correct typographical sub-clause references in Clause 15 Dispute Settling Procedures where necessary; and
- 'Aboriginal Health Worker' replaced with the correct nomenclature 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner' (Schedule 4).

If the ballot results in a 'yes' vote (that is if a majority of employees who vote approve the proposed agreement), after approval by the Fair Work Commission, the first 3% increase will apply from 10 October 2013.

If the ballot does not result in a 'yes' vote then negotiations will resume and in accordance with the Wages Policy pay rises will occur from the date we reach agreement.

Ballot Process

On Monday 14 October 2013, employees will be sent further information regarding the improved proposed NTPS 2013-2017 Enterprise Agreement, including a link to a copy of the proposed agreement and an explanatory document highlighting the changes compared with your current agreement. Hard copies of these documents will also be available throughout workplaces where people do not have access to email.

The ballot process will be conducted by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC), which will involve a mail-out to your nominated address details contained in myHR as at 4 October 2013.

If your details have changed since this date you should contact Peter Burgess at the NT Electoral Commission on 8999 7622 or peter.burgess@nt.gov.au

The ballot material will include a ballot paper, ballot envelope and return post-paid envelope, which will ensure your confidentiality is maintained throughout the ballot process.

The timetable for the ballot is:

Monday 14 October	Distribution of proposed agreement and explanatory material.
Friday 18 October	Ballot papers ready for mail-out by Australia Post.
Tuesday 22 October	Ballot OPENS
Friday 8 November	Ballot CLOSES 10am (includes mail received before 10am). Ballot papers to be counted and results declared.

Ballot counts will be conducted simultaneously at NTEC Offices in Darwin, Level 3 TCG Centre 80 Mitchell Street Darwin; and Alice Springs, MyVote Central Suite 3, Yepperenye Centre Gregory Terrace Alice Springs. Employees may also lodge their completed ballot at these offices.

On leave over the Ballot period?

If you will not be at your nominated address from now until the close of the ballot period (8 November 2013) you can contact NTEC and nominate an alternative address to have the ballot sent to; or you can pick up a ballot form at an NTEC office in Darwin or Alice Springs. Ballots can be posted back to the NTEC during the ballot period (22 October – 8 November). Ballot papers received outside of this period can not be accepted.

All employees covered by the Agreement during the ballot period are eligible to vote. Any employee who does not receive a ballot paper by 28 October 2013 should contact Peter Burgess at the NT Electoral Commission on 8999 7622 or peter.burgess@nt.gov.au.

As you are aware from the previous result, every vote is valuable and employees are encouraged to have their say by participating in the voting process.

MORE INFORMATION

To keep you informed visit the [Enterprise Agreement Negotiation Updates page](#), which is updated regularly with the latest information on negotiations, including bulletins, information sheets and other material.



KEN SIMPSON
Commissioner for Public Employment

11 October 2013