

NTPS GENERAL BULLETIN 6/2013

Is this a fair offer?

Since my last Bulletin, representatives from my office and NTPS agencies have continued to meet with union representatives to bargain for a new enterprise agreement.

The unions have made a number of claims in bargaining, some of which have a significant cost impact and that will restrict the Government's capacity to allocate financial, capital or human resources according to its policy priorities. As you will know, these matters are precluded under the [Northern Territory Public Sector Wages Policy 2013 - 2016](#).

While bargaining is still progressing and many matters are still under consideration, I am concerned that the unions have rejected the moderate efficiencies in the offer and have not adequately informed members about the benefits of the offer, or the implications should agreement not be reached before the current agreement expires on 9 August 2013.

In the prevailing economic circumstances, the offer made on 15 May 2013 ([Bulletin 4 / 2013](#)) is a fair and reasonable one because:

- the 3% p.a. salary increases over 4 years will provide an extended period of certainty and stability of pay and terms and conditions for employees;
- the cost of the legislative increases to the Superannuation Guarantee totalling 2.0% over the life of the agreement will be met by the employer and are in addition to the salary increases.
- the salary and superannuation offer meets the average CPI over the forecast period; and
- in return the employer is only seeking a small number of moderate efficiencies with minimal, or in most cases, no direct impact on employees across the sector.

I would like to remind employees that the offer is dependent on the achievement of the proposed efficiencies and if these cannot be achieved I reserve the right to reconsider my offer.

In summary, bargaining is continuing and my office has an open invitation to the unions to meet as regularly as possible in an attempt to reach agreement prior to the expiry of the current enterprise agreement (9 August 2013) which would ensure the first salary increase is effective from the first full pay period following expiry of the current agreement.

Feedback

I urge all employees to consider the information in this Bulletin carefully and should you wish to indicate your view on my offer or the unions claims, I invite you to provide these to your union directly or if you are not a union member, directly to me through this link www.enterpriseagreements.nt.gov.au/general_feedback.

More Information

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



KEN SIMPSON

Commissioner for Public Employment

4 July 2013