



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

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BY:

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Ms Penny Gilmour
Secretary
Australian Education Union-ACT Branch
PO Box 3042
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Dear Ms Gilmour

Thank you for meeting with me on 1 November 2011 and taking the time to identify and discuss the central issues relating to settlement of the new teachers' enterprise agreement. I appreciate you making yourselves available to meet with me.

The Government's preference is to resolve these issues directly with the AEU to enable in-principle agreement on the enterprise agreement to proceed. To that end, I wish to provide the following update on each of the six outstanding issues you raised at the meeting.

Salary quantum

You indicated a willingness to accept the latest Government offer if the two subsequent annual pay rises of 3.5 percent for all classifications can be achieved. While it is not possible to further extend the overall salary quantum of the offer, I invite AEU representatives to work directly with Directorate officers to distribute this salary quantum across the classification structure to best suit your claim. This could involve adjusting the timing of the annual increases.

School Counsellors

The current offer provides for \$8,000 per year for school counsellors to meet the costs of professional requirements, with the method of payment to be negotiated. You indicated a preference for a Special Employment Arrangement, which the Directorate acknowledges as a viable option. The Directorate has been working on another attractive option, which you may also like to consider in bargaining.

Teaching Leaders

The proposed Teaching Leader classification implements the Government's election commitment to paying our best teachers a six figure salary. The Government remains committed to implementing this initiative. I understand significant progress has been made in bargaining towards reaching agreement on roles and responsibilities but an outstanding issue is the relationship of this classification to the new national teaching standards.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Principal structure

I understand the issues concerning restructure of the principal classification are complex and that developing a workable model will take some time. As a way forward, the Government is prepared to work with the AEU to develop agreed principles and milestones before the end of this year to ensure this task is carried out in a mutually acceptable timeframe.

ICT in schools

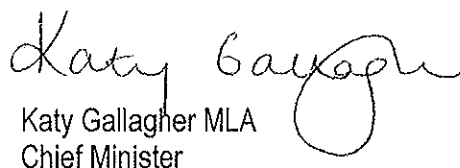
I agree that teachers' focus should be on the educational rather than technical aspects of ICT in schools. The Government believes that this is best expressed through a statement in the schools ICT policy.

School Autonomy

This again is a complex issue and it may not be possible to spell out in a definitive way every aspect of school autonomy for inclusion in the agreement. I note that the issues relevant to the enterprise agreement relate more significantly to the staffing rather than financial aspects and that progress has been made in some areas, such as teacher transfer arrangements, through bargaining.

I believe further progress on a number of fronts can be made at the bargaining table and I would ask the AEU to reconsider its plans for further industrial action planned for next week.

Yours sincerely


Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister

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