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2011 ACT DET Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement Negotiations

Bargaining has commenced with DET for a new Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement, and with Chief Minister's Department as part of the Single Bargaining Unit for a new ACT Public Sector Common Core.

Bargaining Parameters:

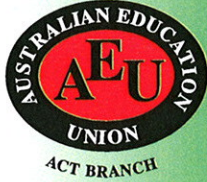
The Chief Minister's Department (CMD) advised bargaining representatives on 4 March that the whole of Government offer was (a) 2.5% per annum wage increase, (b) an Agreement of 2 years duration, and (c) the removal of a range of conditions from Agreements and place them in either the Public Sector Management Act (PSMA) or the Standards that provide more detail for implementation of PSMA provisions.

Members may have seen a Whole of Government email of 4/3/11 that provided this information.

On 25 March CMD advised the bargaining representatives in writing that the offer had changed; (a) and (b) remained, but a replacement (c) proposed a "rollover" of common terms and conditions and agency schedules for all general clerical agreements with plans to amend various elements of the agreements put aside.

The changed offer is conditional on the bargaining representatives agreeing not to bring forward additional claims, either for common terms or through agency schedule negotiations. As well, the offer requires bargaining agents to agree to the inclusion in the Agreement of a clause committing to work towards the implementation of Government agreed outcomes arising from the Hawke Review – which recommendations and what is to be implemented are unknown at this time.

The offer refers only to "general clerical agreements" so its status in respect of teachers' agreement in DET is unclear. Members may have seen a Whole of Government email on 29/3/11 that described the new offer. While the general union response is still being



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determined, the AEU's assessment is that the CMD proposals to date will not assist in achieving a settlement for teachers.

DET Negotiations – Teaching Staff:

At the first formal meeting on 28 March DET confirmed that their bargaining instructions to date reflect the original offer from CMD. DET tabled an offer of 2.5% per annum with a preference for a 4-year Agreement. The AEU response was that the quantum offered is insufficient and the Union's position on duration will depend on the final settlement of quantum. DET outlined some of its priorities but is yet to provide a formal response to the AEU Claim.

Issues for SLAs and SLBs:

The AEU has convened meetings of SLA and SLB members to discuss issues of particular concern to them in the context of this bargaining round. The AEU will be clarifying issues through a survey of SLA/SLB members and establishing a Consultative Committee process to inform the negotiations.

DET Negotiations – Minister Barr's comments to date

In a meeting with the AEU on 17 March Minister Barr indicated that he had supported Budget bids to fund increases to Deputy Principal salaries, the implementation of Accomplished and Leading Teacher positions, reduced teaching loads for New Educators, and the provision of formal mentoring support as part of the next DET Teaching Staff Enterprise Agreement. There was no mention of Budget bids for any other items in any of the AEU's Claims.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN?

The ACT Government is finalising the 2011/12 ACT Budget now! Email Barr@act.gov.au, Stanhope@act.gov.au, Gallagher@act.gov.au and other ACT politicians to demand adequate funding in the Budget for teachers salaries and working conditions.

As negotiations continue members will be kept informed of progress through AEU e-bulletins and are encouraged to participate in each AEU Sub-Branch and Branch Council.

Penny Gilmour
Branch Secretary

6 April 2011