

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT OFFER

At a meeting of bargaining representatives held on 24 March 2011, the Government made an offer for the next round of ACTPS enterprise agreements - most of which are due to expire on 30 June 2011.

The ACT Government is committed to supporting its workforce and has an established track record of providing generous pay outcomes where possible. The Government's offer has been made in the genuine interests of preserving jobs within the ACT public sector and in the context of the ACT Budget and the current significant fiscal demands upon the Government.

In summary, the Government has proposed a 'rollover' of common terms and conditions and agency schedules for all general agency agreements and will put aside its plans to amend various elements of the agreements as they relate to the ACTPS employment framework during the 2011 negotiations. In return, the Government seeks acceptance of its position on quantum, i.e. a 2.5% pay increase from 1/7/11 and another 2.5% from 1/7/12, in agreements of two years duration.

The Government's offer has been made on the basis that bargaining representatives do not bring forward additional claims, either for common terms or through agency schedule negotiations. The suggested 'rollover' would not preclude necessary changes to address technical or practical problems within either the common terms or agency schedules. However, this would proceed on a no-detriment basis.

The offer has also been extended in the context of the Hawke Review of the ACTPS – including an agreement to review the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. Recognising the value of effective consultation already enshrined within current enterprise agreements, the Government has offered to incorporate a new clause specifically stating that we will work together towards the implementation of Government agreed recommendations arising from the Hawke Review.

As the Government is keen to progress bargaining, this offer will remain open for a reasonable, but limited, period of time and we are seeking at least preliminary responses from bargaining representatives by the next bargaining meeting on 31 March 2011.

If the offer is accepted, it is proposed that it be confirmed through a written understanding with bargaining representatives and proceed quickly to a formal consideration period for staff and ultimately staff voting. If not, the Government will continue to pursue its agenda of modernising the ACTPS employment framework through the 2011 bargaining period.

Advice and Information

Further advice will be provided to staff as negotiations progress. Staff can always access information on the bargaining process at the following link -

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/governance/agreement>

Authorised by Luke McAlary, Director, Public Sector Management Group, Chief Minister's Department