

Dear Senators,

As a senior officer in the Bureau of Meteorology I am responsible for catalysing engagements with stakeholders to both increase the impact of Commonwealth services and also drive increases in external revenue to support the Bureau's budget bottom line. This isn't an easy role but I love the challenges it brings. The culture here thankfully isn't all about money but instead is primarily about safety and care for the Australian community, environment and social prosperity. Unfortunately the failed bargaining process is now impacting this relatively altruistic workplace culture as well as our individual and collective prosperity. Being at the top of my pay band over the past 4 years my salary has been fixed since 2013. Tied together with several extended recruitment freezes there has been little opportunity for promotions and career advancements. As such I had to seek a lateral transfer to pursue a new career path within business development. Without any salary increase to match the CPI I have gone backwards financially despite this lateral transfer into a challenging role which ironically is focussed on increasing agency revenue. Being based in Sydney, the most expensive capital city for everything including property, means that I am feeling the financial impacts of the failed bargaining process perhaps more acutely than others around the country, although I am sure my Melbourne counterparts could also claim the pain. I am determined to continue to win further business for the Bureau by strengthening our relationships and increasing our impact. It would be reasonable for me to expect that the Commonwealth would reward these efforts which actually increase agency revenue and at the very least ensure my financial position wasn't sliding backwards thanks to inflation and property expenses.

Regards,
Clinton

Clinton Rakich
Business Development Manager – Emerging Markets