

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SECTOR UNION
STATE PUBLIC SERVICES FEDERATION GROUP

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15 February 2018

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus)

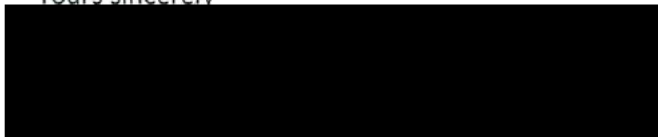
The CPSU endorses the submission made by our global union federation, Public Services International (PSI), to this inquiry. We join PSI in recommending that the PACER Plus implementing legislation is not approved, and recommend that the agreement is renegotiated.

Issues of concern include:

- The unbalanced nature of the agreement. PACER Plus appears to only improve market access for Australian and New Zealand companies, and will not support the development of industries in Pacific Island countries;
- Proposed tariff cuts will reduce revenue across Pacific Island countries - this revenue is crucial for the funding of public services in Pacific Island countries;
- Labour mobility clauses that treat workers as mere commodities;
- The absence of a Labour chapter in the agreement to require the adoption and implementation of international labour rights standards; and
- The lack of consultation with Pacific Island unions about the impacts of the agreement.

For further information regarding this submission, please contact Clare Middlemas, National Campaigns Officer, via email at cmiddlemas@spsf.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Karen Batt
Federal Secretary
CPSU SPSF