

Message from Elizabeth Kelly

Yesterday an article appeared in the Canberra Times which was repeated elsewhere in the Fairfax Press, called *Prime Minister and Cabinet pay talks are off: It's all too hard*. The article is inaccurate and misrepresents our negotiations, including the discussions around pay discussions, remote localities allowance and job security.

Pay discussions have not been suspended. Pay discussions will go ahead in the coming weeks.

We do not intend to remove remote localities assistance from our next agreement.

The CPSU's core claims across the public service, and their additional PM&C claims, are unaffordable and unrealistic. Their threshold 'Machinery of Government' claim to adopt only the most generous terms and conditions from each agreement is adding further complexity to the PM&C negotiations. The Secretary has consistently stated that parity relates not just to pay, but also to conditions. We continue to work collaboratively and in good faith to make the best deal possible.

Our management team has met with the CPSU and other bargaining representatives 12 times since negotiations started on 14 August. The frequency of these meetings shows just how seriously we take the negotiation process and how committed we are to having an agreement in place as soon as possible. I encourage you to read the regular bargaining updates and meeting records on the Staff Information Hub – meeting records are agreed by all members of the negotiation group including the CPSU so it is a factual account of negotiations.

While this round of bargaining is complex, we are committed to negotiating and implementing a single enterprise agreement covering everyone in PM&C. Synthesising ten sets of terms and conditions means that each and every component of the agreement must be discussed. There will be some changes to your terms and conditions in the new agreement, but we will continue to communicate openly and transparently with you about these changes and how they will be implemented.

Elizabeth Kelly

Deputy Secretary Governance

Senate F&PA Committee

Tabled Document

Inquiry: Supp Budget Estimates
2014-15

Date/Time: 20/10/14

Witness Name Ms. Elizabeth Kelly

Organisation: DPMC

- Entitlements in the current PM&C enterprise agreement can be used as the baseline in developing your new EA, even if it means some individual employees may see an enhancement to some of their conditions. If you wish to use a different agency's EA as the baseline for any entitlement and this results in any enhancements, this would still need an exemption from the Policy. The rationale for this is that this is what would have happened had the 24(3) not been made; or PM&C had been removed from coverage; and (technically) the only actual EA operating in the agency is PM&C's.