

23 MARCH 2016

Public sector enterprise agreement; campaign update #5

ANMF members from across the Victorian public sector met at Moonee Valley racecourse to hear a report back on the progress of negotiations for the new public sector enterprise agreements. Nurses covered by the Mental Health EBA will meet on 31 March at ANMF.

Branch Secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick told the meeting:

- that while positive negotiations were occurring on some of the matters in the claim, and that a small number had been agreed in principle, the settlement offer from the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association fell well short of an acceptable settlement, with only 2.5% to 3% pa wage increases on offer and most of our claims not addressed. Members agreed and rejected the offer and demanded a comprehensive revised offer in time for the next statewide meeting on 20 April.
- The Fair Work Commission has granted our application for the AEC to conduct a protected industrial action secret ballot. It is absolutely critical that every member return their completed ballot paper to the AEC. The ballot doesn't mean we will take the action outlined in the ballot paper, only that if we choose to at a later time, it will be protected by law.

The protected industrial action secret ballot, due in member's mailboxes around the 4th April, must be completed and returned as soon as it's received, especially given:

- The law requires at least half our members to cast a vote in time to be counted by the AEC
- The law requires more than half the returned ballots have to be a YES vote
- New Australia Post mail systems may take up to 7 days to process your letter back to the AEC
- Each workplace is subject to a separate ballot, so members in each workplace must meet the requirements above, for members in that workplace to be protected by law. Please also contact your colleagues and ensure they return their ballot paper to the AEC in the reply paid envelope provided.

ANMF will be sending out a text message to you if we have your mobile number, or an email if not, at 4.00pm on 4 April – please respond to the message! ANMF will then be calling members who have not responded to confirm you have returned your completed ballot paper.

Note that if you are employed by two separate public sector employers, or in general and in mental health, you may receive two or more ballot papers, you are entitled to vote multiple times in these circumstances.

Our next statewide members meeting has been scheduled for 20 April 2016 at 2.30pm – please put this in your diary now, ANMF is confident that we will have an improved offer to put to that meeting, and if that offer is not accepted, this is when we will make decisions about industrial action in support of our claims.

Members unanimously passed the following resolution:

This statewide ANMF members meeting having heard the report and Government offer from Branch Secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick and Assistant Secretary Paul Gilbert resolve as follows:

1. Note the progress made thus far with respect to ANMF members' claims
2. Acknowledge the diligence and seriousness with which the Andrew's Government, and its representatives, are approaching the negotiations with Victorian public sector nurses and midwives
3. Reject the offer as provided to the ANMF on Monday 21 March 2016
4. Direct ANMF officials to continue negotiating and progress all ANMF member claims, including salaries consistent with our NSW counterparts.
5. Call on the VHIA to respond to each of the draft clauses provided by the ANMF no later than 31 March 2016
6. Call on the DHHS to provide third party assistance to resolve any matters that are outstanding as at 8 April 2016
7. Report to a further statewide members meeting on 20 April at 2.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

Remember:

- **expect a ballot paper in the mail on or around 4 April 2016**
– complete it and return it to the AEC straight away!
- **You will receive a text message (if we have your mobile number) at 4.00pm on 4 April**
– please respond to the text message!
- **You will receive an email message (if we don't have your mobile number) at 4.00pm on 4 April**
– please respond to the email message!
- **Speak to your colleagues about voting!**
- **Put the 20th April in your diary for the next statewide meeting!**