

HEALTH SERVICES UNION

NEWSLETTER #118 (14 July 2011)

The union negotiating group met with Chief of Staff of the Hon Jack Snelling and Andrew Thompson (Treasury) on three occasions.

The Union's position was outlined in our previous newsletter #116

Government response

The government has responded in a letter to Secretaries dated 8 July 2011 (copy attached). The letter provides written confirmation of two conditions sought by the unions *"any agreement would be effective from 1 July 2011, that it would have universal application for those eligible public sector employees and my intention that the agreement would be formalised (most likely as an award of the industrial relations commission)*.

The letter does not contain any commitment that a new form of leave entitlement would be equivalent to the value of the long service leave entitlement employees were receiving prior to 1 July 2011.

Update on the Government position

The government advice that Modelling of any options in the form of alternative leave or cashing out has been done "within the envelope of this financial year's budget rolled through forward estimates". This basically means a reduction of \$33 million has been built into the modelling and as a consequence the proposals to return an entitlement fall well short of what we would find acceptable.

The government would not commit to return an equivalent value of leave at this stage. The government says it will be looking closely at State revenues before deciding whether they will give the commitment.

The return of the full entitlement will be a matter for Cabinet to decide.

A further date for negotiations has been set for 25 July 2011.

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Authorised by Jorge Navas, Secretary HSU



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At the SA Unions Executive Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2011. The meeting determined –

“SA Unions Executive:

recommits to continue the campaign for a full replacement of the long service leave entitlement that was unilaterally removed in the September 2010 State Budget;

expresses workers’ concern that at this stage there is still no commitment from the Government to replace the full value of the leave entitlement;

notes that continued negotiation is occurring to replace the value of this lost entitlement;

determines SA Unions Executive will meet to consider activating industrial or other action at any time that the negotiations stall or if it becomes clear that our objective will not be met.

SA Unions Executive authorises the negotiating team to continue to negotiate with the objective as a first step, to gain a commitment to a full replacement of the value of the removed entitlement”.

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

Any queries, please give us a call on 0419 036 615.

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