



Public Sector Wages Update

6 May 2020

Dear << Test First Name >>,

United Workers Union and other public sector unions have been in discussions with government since the Premier announced on 2 April that public sector bargaining and wage increases are on hold.

Ambulance Section State Councillors were briefed on the situation including the financial position of the state and potential impact on upcoming bargaining for your next enterprise agreement. It's important that members understand the environment we are working with and navigating to achieve the best outcomes in.

United Workers Union has broad coverage. In the Public Sector your union covers teacher aides and school cleaners; we cover health professionals and operational clinical staff in hospitals and home care workers in the community. Along with Ambulance members who have enterprise bargaining due to commence imminently, all of our members will be impacted by a change of government policy on wages.

Under their certified agreements teacher aides and school cleaners are due their annual increase in September of this year. The majority of these members are part-time and are on moderate wages in comparison to other sections of

UWU membership.

Our Queensland Health members reached 'in principle' agreement with government at the end of 2019 after voting to take industrial action, these agreements are not yet certified and consequently members have not had a pay rise since 2018.

Ambulance State Council authorised discussions with government acknowledging the unprecedented circumstances created by the pandemic. State Councillors endorsed the call for pay parity for health workers through payment of 2019 increases and for any deferral of 2020 increases to be consulted about and consistently applied.

Government have now confirmed that delayed 2019 wages policy for members in health and other affected areas will be administratively applied before 1 July 2020 to ensure no disadvantage.

Formal correspondence has been received from government committing to ensure a level playing field while we continue to discuss the implementation of a temporary change to the application of wages policy for the period 2 April 2020 to 30 June 2021.

[You can read that correspondence here](#)

This is a significant win for our hard-working members in health and is due in part to the solidarity shown by all UWU members.

The letter also confirms the government's commitment to work with unions to maintain public sector employment, maintain the integrity of enterprise agreements with any variations to our industrial relations framework being temporary and subject to consultation.

Discussions are continuing with State Government. The outstanding issues

must be resolved as a priority to provide certainty to ambulance, health and education members about ongoing wages and conditions.

As discussions continue members will be briefed and endorsement sought from your State Council representatives as any resolution can be reached.

In Unity,

Sharron Caddie

Public Sector Director

United Workers Union