

Dear Senators,

I am a public servant with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the Department). Every day I see comments from the senior executive and the Government reiterating how important the work of my Department is, but I don't see the impact of those words on our Enterprise Agreement (EA) bargaining. We are now at over 1000 days with no new EA. I do not understand how we can be held up as so important to the security and prosperity of Australia, to facilitating tourism, trade and upholding Australia's international reputation whilst simultaneously being told we are overpaid with too many conditions.

I moved to Canberra two years ago to work for DIBP as a graduate. I could have chosen private sector work, but I wanted to make a positive contribution to public life in Australia. I am attempting to make a life in Canberra. However, with rising property prices, cost of living increases and a stagnant pay rate, making-ends-meet is getting harder. I don't want the world, I just want a fair outcome that reflects the contribution that I and my colleagues make every day.

The morale in the workplace after 1000 days is, understandably, very low. We receive many messages from our senior executives telling us how tough the budget is, and that the best offer we can afford is on the table. The offer on the table would see me lose \$2000 next year as compared to the agreement yet to be replaced. I am not talking about the value of the loss of conditions, bargaining rights or working hours in the proposed agreement; this is a flat \$2000 out of my pay packet due to the significant changes to salary point advancement. I go backwards even with the general pay rise offered. That is \$2000 I can't use for a mortgage, to pay off my car or to go back to University to learn something new to add to my career.

I support the integration of the Department and I serve the Government of the day. I am committed to working within the parameters set for the public service to deliver the best outcomes for Australia. I note however, that every dollar taken from the public service and from the Department could mean the difference between having a staff member to facilitate a tourist arriving in Australia to spend their money locally, process a skilled migrant looking to make a new life here, reunite a family or improve Australia's international standing.

Before negotiations began, I felt I was valued and could really make a difference. I earned a Bachelor and a Masters working towards this goal, and now I am not sure of my next career steps. I want these difficult and morale reducing negotiations to end with a fair and equitable outcome. Not for the money, but for what the money represents: recognition and respect. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Goldie  
Public Servant at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection