

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F71

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I refer you to question F48 from Supplementary Estimates 2014. The Department of Finance and Deregulation Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014 had an expiry date of 30 June, 2014. Negotiations for a new agreement began on 19 June, 2014.

1. Has an agreement been reached yet? If yes, please provide a summary of changes between it and the old agreement.
2. Given that the old agreement expired many months before I received this response, what were the sticking points by both sides that were holding up a new agreement?
3. What arrangements are in place to cover employees between when the old agreement expired and the new agreement commences?
4. Are any of the conditions from the new agreement to be applied retroactively to cover the interim period between agreements? If yes, please list them.

Answer:

1. No.
2. The Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy (the Policy) sets out the requirements that apply for the current round of enterprise bargaining. Finance has progressed bargaining in accordance with the Policy, and there have been extensive negotiations with employee and union representatives on all matters pertinent to a future Enterprise Agreement.
3. The current Finance Enterprise Agreement nominally expired on Monday, 30 June 2014 but continues to apply until a new Enterprise Agreement is certified by the Fair Work Commission.
4. No.