

Question: 5
Topic: Enterprise Agreement
Asked: 19 October 2015

Senator GALLAGHER: Just in relation to a comment you have on page 6 of your annual report around the enterprise agreement negotiations, I think the comment is that it is going to be a challenge for the forthcoming year.

...

Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have a planned timetable for finalisation?

Dr Laing: Yes, we do have a timetable, which I can provide to you on notice. ...

Answer

The department's enterprise agreement development timetable is as follows:

Date	Activity
30 June 2015	Current agreement nominally expired.
12 June 2015	Notice of Employee Representational Rights issued.
July – October 2015	Meetings with bargaining representatives. <i>Two meetings held to date: 14 July and 27 August, with a third scheduled for 28 Oct. Further meetings if required.</i>
ASAP	Finalising internal costing of productivity proposals.
*	Seek APSC review of proposals and costings.
	Seek in-principle agreement from the President of the Senate in relation to the department's bargaining position.
	Meetings with bargaining representatives. <i>Meet and discuss the bargaining position including remuneration.</i>
	Review and finalise draft agreement.
	Seek approval to vote on the proposed agreement from APSC and President of the Senate.
Minimum 7 days	Consideration period.
To be determined.	Ballot period.
Within 16 days of ballot	Seek approval from Fair Work Commission.
Seven days after approval	Replacement agreement commences seven days after approval.

* Given recent changes announced to the Public Sector Bargaining Policy, the timing of this and subsequent steps will require reassessment.