



your voice, your union.

Hypocritical, Disingenuous, Underhanded, how many more ways can we explain this.

As Members would certainly remember last year your Union sat down with Australia Post to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement (EBA9), for the first time ever in negotiations we found that the current Federal Government had decided that they would interfere.

We were told that as Australia Post is a Government Business Enterprise we were covered by the "Australian Government's Workplace Bargaining Policy 2015", what this meant was that we would not under any circumstance be allowed anything more than 2% per annum in pay rises, no improvements to our existing agreement and in fact parts of our existing agreement were at risk if it did not meet the guidelines of this policy.

Long story short, after much negotiation and lobbying etc we achieved a rollover agreement (no conditions lost), a 2% per annum pay rise and a 1% whole of salary bonus based on Post's profitability.

What we also found out at the time was that there were a number of other government organizations that were having the same battle as us, though for most of them the battle had been going on already for about 2 years, some of these are/were "Border Force, Human Services, Taxation Dept, Dept of Defence etc".

Since our EBA has been certified we are aware that the employees of the Taxation Dept accepted their EBA, 6% over 3 years and a watered down employment agreement, no back pay for the 3 years they were in dispute and the disputed agreement for Border Force employees has gone to the Fair Work Commission to be arbitrated.

Problem for the good people at Border Force is that there is no knowing what will come out of an arbitrated agreement, it is highly unlikely that there will be any back pay for the 3 or so years of dispute and just prior to Christmas they were denied an interim pay rise whilst the matter is being resolved, no wage rise now for over 3 years, these people being the front line in our Australian Immigration and Border Protection.

Then in the last couple of days we find out through the Senate Estimates processes that Prime Minister Turnbull personally intervened to give a wage rise to 30 of his personal staff, the amount, \$840,000 divided amongst them. Assuming this amount is divided equally that is \$28,000 each for a group of people who already receive in excess of \$250,000 annually, an increase of more than 10%, unsurprisingly all of this has been largely ignored by the mainstream media.

Question is, if Post employees and those that work for Border Force, Human Services, Taxation Dept, Dept of Defence etc have a government policy applied to them that only allows them 2% how can another group of people who clearly should be covered by the same policy be given pay rises of this magnitude.

As said above there are a lot of words that we could use to try and explain this (a lot of them we couldn't print) but the absolute reality is that once again the average working class men and women who in most cases provide essential services to the Australian public have been treated with nothing but contempt and disregard by their employer, the current Federal Liberal Government.

If Members have any questions or concerns regarding the information above please contact the Branch Office on 9227 9911.

Yours in Solidarity,



Barry McVee
Branch Secretary
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Connecting
our community

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