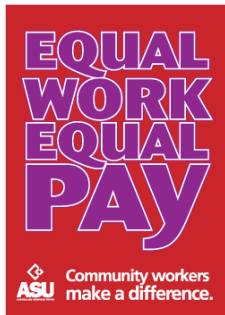




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ASU NEWSLETTER



Your ASU Pay Equity Update from Conciliation



Meetings which continue with relevant Federal Ministers, in an effort reach Agreement on Payment of Queensland Rates of Pay are bearing fruit, the Federal Government believes that they are closer to reaching an agreement with the Australian Services Union and we provide you with information to that effect.

The Federal Government has asked FWA to allow more time for the government and the ASU to continue their discussions about a potential agreement on equal pay.

In a letter to Justice Giudice, president of Fair Work Australia, the Minister for Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans said:

"As you know, the Government was a consistent and strong supporter of the conciliation process overseen by Commissioner Smith. In the Government's view it provided an important opportunity to explore the scope for agreement on key outstanding issues.

While agreement was unable to be reached during conciliation, the Government considers that useful progress was made in discussions between the government and the ASU as part of that process. An adjournment of the full bench proceedings would provide an opportunity to build on the positive issues canvassed in those discussions. It is the government's view that agreement is possible on potential methodologies for assessing the level of gender undervaluation in this sector if the parties were given more time to further discuss these issues."

FWA agreed to adjourn proceedings today, October 24th, and granted an extension of conciliation. The ASU asked for the final hearing dates to be set in four weeks time. Fair Work Australia will make a decision on the new dates and publish these on their website.

The ASU is not opposed to further discussions with the commonwealth provided they occur quickly and are not protracted. The ASU believes that there is a real possibility that agreement might be possible on key issues. These discussions will be scheduled to commence immediately and members will be kept updated.

If you are not yet an ASU member, please join now as we reach the next critical stages of our fight for Pay Equity.

See attached the letter from Senator Evans to the FWA.