



FAIR WORK
AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT

Fair Work Act 2009

s.240—Applications to deal with a bargaining dispute

CPSU, the Community and Public Sector Union

v

State of Victoria

(B2011/3233)

State of Victoria

v

CPSU, the Community and Public Sector Union

(B2011/3206)

State and Territory government administration

COMMISSIONER SMITH

MELBOURNE, 28 NOVEMBER 2011

State of Victoria (Department of Treasury and Finance)/CPSU Bargaining.

[1] On Sunday 20 November the State of Victoria and the CPSU, the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) reached an agreement in relation to the future conduct of enterprise bargaining negotiations. A significant ingredient of that agreement was pausing bans 20 and 21 (applying to child protection officers) unconditionally for a period of not less than 7 days.

[2] Since that time, central negotiations have continued and particular negotiations have taken place with the State of Victoria and child protection officers. The 7 days concluded yesterday. However, there is still work to be done and the child protection negotiating parties are looking to continue those discussion into this week.

[3] I have asked the CPSU to provide me with the variations it seeks to the operating model proposed by the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am advised by CPSU that there can be some adjustments which may deal with supervision and workload issues. The CPSU bargaining team has agreed to provide a formal document by 5.00 p.m. today. I have also been advised that, whilst DHS is supportive of its current proposition, it is prepared to consider proposals and arguments for change. DHS should respond to the issues raised by CPSU by close of business on Wednesday.

[4] DHS has not adopted a take it or leave it approach at this stage of the negotiations and anything said to the contrary does not reflect the true position.

[5] I am grateful that the parties are continuing to meet and genuinely consider each other's views and I will assist where necessary. Each party should continue those negotiations in the spirit of the "pause" identified on 20 November and not take any steps which might add an element of confusion to the negotiations.

[6] I have asked DHS to forward this statement to each of the child protection officers so that they may be kept up to date, by me, of the current situation.

