



Update on NBN Bargaining

The ASU has held preliminary meetings with NBN Co. for new Enterprise Agreements to cover Clerical and Administrative employees and Contact Centre employees. This bulletin provides an overview of what was discussed and our expectations for how negotiations may continue in the next month or so.

We are keen to feedback from ASU members about the issues canvassed in this bulletin. Please get in contact with your local ASU organisers, whose details are provided.

Management claims

The meetings to date have been frustratingly unproductive as management has not put a wage claim. Management have indicated that they simply want to maintain the terms and conditions in the current Agreement and increase wages. Yet, they cannot put a figure on the wage claim, citing restrictions caused by public sector bargaining protocols. Management are currently negotiating with the Minister's Office to establish how the bargaining protocols affect NBN and to gain approval for their wage claim. We expect the company to be in a position to put a wage claim on the table at the next meeting.

- Introduce extra leave for employees experiencing domestic violence;
- Extend the number of days an employee can take sick leave without a certificate;
- Expand and increase circumstances in which bereavement/compassionate leave may be taken;
- Improve rostering provisions in the contact centre;
- Introduce job share options;
- Introduce rostered days off.

Management are yet to respond to these claims. They have said they will do so at a future meeting.

ASU claims

In the interests of progressing negotiations quickly, the ASU has tabled its log of claims for both Agreements. The ASU formulated this log of claims, from a survey of members conducted over the last few months. Our priorities in these negotiations are:

- A fair increase to wages, superannuation and allowances;
- Reduce the notice period that employees are required to provide upon termination (currently 5 weeks);
- Address and improve payroll, particularly reducing the lengthy delays;
- Improve redundancy provisions;

What's next?

The next meeting is scheduled for 16th of October 2014. This meeting will be rescheduled if NBN faces delays in discussions with the Government and is not ready to put a wage claim.

Now is the time to join the Union. The best way to maintain fair wages and conditions at NBN is to join the Union. You can join online here: <https://asujoin.asn.au/>

Contact your local ASU organiser

Branch	Contact	Mobile
NSW US	Clare Raffan	02 9265 8211
C&SQ C&A	Jo Justo	1800 177 244
VIC PS	Gail Drummond	03 9342 3300

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