

Political lobbying guide – Together in Education in 2019 – February

It's an important time this February to call or email your local MP, particularly if they are a government (Labor) MP and ask them to ask them to represent your concerns about the bargaining tactics currently being run in the Department of Education.

You can find their contact details here: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current/list>

You can drop in to an office and ask to speak to your MP. You can call the office and ask for a meeting or send them an email. Face to face is often most powerful.

Local Labor MPs have an opportunity to speak directly to Minister Grace and ask her to take one last look at the need to listen to your concerns and make a really good offer this month and avoid a long arbitration process.

Trying to secure a fair deal for you and your hard working colleagues in the Department of Education is urgent.

Teachers in state schools are about to start bargaining and the government has done a good deal with Teacher Aides and school cleaners in 2018 so why will the government not move to make a reasonable offer to you and your colleagues who are public servants in the department?

The DG's offer to public servants in December was great for therapists and laboratory technicians however the wording about wages for the majority of people covered by the agreement was still confusing.

On wages:

The department have refused to provide an actual wages schedule to workers so that they can understand the offer.

The most the government have provided was a table showing that AO2s, AO3s, OO2s, OO3s, TO2s and PO2s would actually have lower pay.

We know that's not true but why won't the department or the Minister actually show us the wage rates?

What union members understood in December was that if they signed up to the Department's offer that in 2018 their wages would not go up again (there would be no EB payrise) and in 2019 their wages would go up by only 1.5% while every other public sector worker was receiving 2.5%.

This did not seem fair to most people. What do you think? Why are we being treated differently to our colleagues?

On tactics:

Together members are very distressed that the department are trying to 'divide and conquer' and putting the important issue of therapists pay parity and laboratory technicians up against a wage rise for every worker.

The issue of pay parity for therapists and technical recognition for laboratory technicians is important and needs to be progressed. This should not come at the cost of an essential pay rise for every other worker.

The department are not willing it appears to agree on any matter (cost or no cost) but are just letting this go in to a process that will leave everyone still uncertain.

This is unfair and not something that is reflecting well on the government.

What can you do?

We ask that MPs raise the tactics and delay with Minister Grace and the Premier and Deputy Premier and see if they can review this decision right now.