

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

111 St Georges Terrace, Perth

On 22 May 2019, the State Wage Case convened. The Commission heard submissions from:

- The Minister for Industrial Relations, and evidence from the State Department of Treasury about the Western Australian and national economies;
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia (Inc);
- UnionsWA; and
- The Western Australian Council of Social Service.

Those submissions related to the level of increase the Commission ought to award to the State Minimum Wage and award rates of pay.

The Commission is also considering whether to amend the Statement of Principles which set out the basis on which the Commission can make decisions to amend awards or issue orders about rates of pay and conditions. It is considering the terms of a proposed principle dealing with equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal or comparable value.

The hearing reconvened on 4 June 2019 to hear submissions about the National Minimum Wage decision handed down by the Fair Work Commission on 30 May 2019.

The Commission will deliver its decision in respect of the State Wage Case at **9.30 am** on **Friday, 14 June 2019**.

Submissions for the 2019 WA Minimum Wage and Equal Remuneration Principle

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission is required to set the minimum wage to apply to employers and employees covered by the WA industrial relations system. It must do this before 1 July each year. The current minimum wage for an adult employee of \$726.90 per week was set in June 2018 to apply from 1 July 2018. Additionally, the Commission is considering an Equal Remuneration Principle to implement equal remuneration for work of equal or comparable value.

The Commission invites interested persons and organisations to make a submission to the Commission on what minimum wage should be set in 2019 and the draft Equal Remuneration Principle. The Commission will hear oral submissions on Wednesday,

22 and if necessary Thursday, 23 May 2019. The proceedings are open to the public and will be webcast. Any person who wishes to make an oral submission at that time should notify the Registrar of the Commission stating the basis of their interest. This must be done by Tuesday, 14 May 2019.

Written submissions are also welcome. Any person or organisation who wishes to make a written submission should do so by Tuesday, 14 May 2019. Copies of written submissions may be made public. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

In making its decision, the Commission is required to consider the need to —

- ensure that Western Australians have a system of fair wages and conditions of employment; and
- meet the needs of the low paid; and
- provide fair wage standards in the context of living standards generally prevailing in the community; and
- contribute to improved living standards for employees; and
- protect employees who may be unable to reach an industrial agreement; and
- encourage ongoing skills development; and
- provide equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal or comparable value.

It is also required to consider:

- the state of the economy of Western Australia and the likely effect of its decision on that economy and, in particular, on the level of employment, inflation and productivity in Western Australia; and
- to the extent that it is relevant, the state of the national economy; and
- to the extent that it is relevant, the capacity of employers as a whole to bear the costs of increased wages, salaries, allowances and other remuneration; and
- the need to ensure that the Western Australian award framework represents a system of fair wages and conditions of employment; and
- relevant decisions of other industrial courts and tribunals; and
- any other relevant matters

People interested in making a submission are invited to address those issues.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registry of the Commission and from the Commission's website at www.wairc.wa.gov.au.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Registrar at the above address or by email to quoting matter number APPL 1 of 2019.

DATED at Perth, Tuesday, 12 March 2019.

S.BASTIAN
REGISTRAR