



MEMBER UPDATE – ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

Crunch Time

In the ordinary course of events, April would be the month for an incremental pay increase for salaried doctors under the Enterprise Agreement.

That will not happen this April because for almost 10 months now the Employer has delayed negotiations regarding a new Enterprise Agreement.

Rather than being at or near an end of negotiations – which should have started on 1 July last year – the Employer is still randomly introducing new matters into discussions and has failed to respond to the matters raised by SASMOA on behalf of doctors, which include a range of items to reduce and manage fatigue and workloads, eliminate wage theft, and improve job security for junior doctors via longer contracts.

When we last met with the Employer's representatives three weeks ago they agreed to identify the employer's final position for consideration by SASMOA negotiators. That has not happened.

The key issues identified by the Department of Treasury and Finance and Department for Health and Wellbeing representatives continues to focus on introducing more autocratic oversight over doctor terms and conditions, such as, professional development; additional layers in medical reporting lines that reduce a doctor's ability to raise matters directly with LHN Chief Executives and senior health administrators and; the removal of clauses within the current agreement which will allow the employer to unilaterally change the terms and conditions of the Private Practice Agreement 2008 (including to increase the Facilities Fee).

SASMOA will soon begin attending sites to discuss with doctors how we will proceed from here.

Bernadette Mulholland
Chief Industrial Officer
27 April 2021