



President's statement

Enterprise agreements – Statistical report: Enterprise agreements & other bargaining data

Justice Ross, President

Melbourne, 22 August 2022

- [1] This Statement outlines the Fair Work Commission's (Commission) intention to regularly publish aggregated information on enterprise agreement approval applications and lodgment information for other bargaining matters. It also sets out what information is proposed to be published, the timeframe for doing so and seeks feedback on the proposal.

Background

- [2] The Commission's functions and powers includes assisting the bargaining process for enterprise agreements, promoting cooperative, harmonious and productive workplace relations, providing advice on its functions and activities and exercising its powers in a manner that is open and transparent.¹
- [3] In recent media reports,² there has been discussion about wage increases in enterprise agreement applications before, or likely to come before, the Commission.
- [4] In order to assist interested parties to access real time wage information in enterprise agreement applications, the Commission proposes to use information collected from our case management system and enterprise agreement application material to provide contemporaneous aggregate information on bargaining outcomes.

Proposed statistical report

- [5] The Commission proposes to publish a statistical report each fortnight which will include two weeks of data from enterprise agreement approval applications lodged with the Commission. This will include a fortnightly Average Annualised Wage

¹ *Fair Work Act 2009*, s.171, s.576, s.577.

² See for example *Pay rising amid labour crisis, but we're a long way from a wages wildfire*, Eric Johnston, *The Australian*, 12 July 2022 and *Small change: Pay rises fail to match soaring inflation*, Ben Schneiders, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 July 2022.

Increase (AAWI) for enterprise agreement approval applications lodged (rather than subsequently approved) with the Commission.

- [6] The Commission's proposed statistical report is intended to complement published information related to approved enterprise agreements available from the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.³
- [7] On a monthly basis, it is proposed that the statistical report include information on the number of lodgments for enterprise agreement approval applications, as well as other enterprise agreement-related applications.
- [8] To accompany the statistical report, the Commission will publish an information note which sets out the data sources and methodology for the metrics.
- [9] The proposed statistical report including the features noted above is attached to this Statement. The report contains data for agreement approval applications lodged in 2 – 15 July 2022. A copy of the proposed information note is also attached.

Feedback

- [10] The Commission seeks feedback on the proposal, attached statistical report and information note by no later than **5pm Monday, 29 August 2022**. Any feedback should be sent to chambers.ross.j@fwc.gov.au.



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³ For example, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations', *Trends in Federal Enterprise Bargaining* report is a quarterly report containing information on approved enterprise agreements made in the federal workplace relations system and publishes a Workplace Agreements Database which presents a historical series for agreements made from 1991 onwards.