

Timeline of events: Core Public Service Wages and Conditions

2012

Campbell Newman promises, *"The LNP has made clear commitments to work with Queensland's hard working and dedicated public servants particularly we've promised no forced redundancies and we will not continue Labor's unfair and arbitrary 2.5% wages cap..."* (27 February — Youtube)

Campbell Newman is elected Premier of Queensland in a landslide.

2012

Negotiations for a new Core agreement begin. Union members put a reasonable list of claims together and started the process in good faith.

July 2012

The Newman government rushes laws through Parliament to take away job security, leading to mass sackings of public servants.

Negotiations break down – union members do not accept ridiculous cuts to conditions proposed. Members offer to meet with the Premier – he refused.

The whole negotiation is sent to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) to arbitrate.

September 2012

Government have one last crack at getting a dodgy deal through by asking all public servants to vote on their cuts to conditions offer. The offer is rejected by over 70% of those voting. The government's ballot set the process back 3 months.

2013

Together negotiators request a pay rise be paid to public servants while the arbitration takes place. The government refuses to pay with legal arguments over whether one can be granted.

24 June 2013

In the first set of legal argument Together members win! The President of Industrial Court says the Commission should give an interim wage increase.

5 July 2013:

STOP! The government steps in and appeals the decision of the Industrial Court to the Supreme Court of Queensland. A ridiculous next step to stop public servants getting a fair go, yet again.

10 July 2013

Government then argues that the whole arbitration cannot proceed until the Supreme Court case is over.

23 July 2013

Government writes to Together to request discussions of a settlement based on a 2.2% wage increase. Meetings take place over the following days.

26 July 2013

After 5:00 pm on Friday afternoon, Public Service Commission chief Ian Maynard writes to Together Secretary Alex Scott, offering an agreement with 2.2% dated from 1 July 2013. The timeframe for acceptance is 9:00 am Monday morning. Alex responds letting him know that union members must vote on all offers and this is not enough time but members could vote with a time extension. Maynard says they can't wait 2 weeks for a member vote.

30 July 2013

Instead PSC launch an informal online "survey" of employees on whether to accept a 2.2% wage increase from 1 July 2013 or continue with the arbitration.

30-31 July 2013

Discussions between PSC and union representatives happen in the Commission, with progress being made. PSC representatives advise that they will need to consider some parts of a potential new offer. On the afternoon of 31 July, the PSC suddenly advise that all matters discussed are withdrawn, stopping again any chance of a fair deal and a fair vote of public servants.

31 July 2013

PSC put forward an "offer" of 2.2% wage rise, with significant cuts to working conditions, dated from 1 April 2013, conditional on immediate acceptance by the union office without balloting of members. This was an offer already rejected by members in ballots.

1 August 2013

The PSC's staff survey closes. 19,590 employees voted (approximately 35% of total employees covered by the agreement). 54% vote NO to the "offer" that doesn't address critical issues and is not fair.

1 August 2013

Together members announce they will stand strong and rally outside Parliament House to protest an over 40% wage increase being given to politicians while they get nothing.

2 August 2013

Ian Maynard meets with union delegates, Together Secretary Alex Scott and the QIRC's Commissioner Fisher. Maynard reiterates the 2.2% offer, conditional on acceptance by the Core delegates committee.

Timeline of events: Core Public Service Wages and Conditions (continued)

Delegates stand firm and outline they do not have the authority to do this and will instead hold a ballot of members.

2 August 2013

Late on Friday afternoon, the PSC file for orders in the Commission. They want: a ballot of employees, to ban any ballot of union members on the same, forced removal of the material that refers to politicians' pay increases from the Together website, and a gag on any "adverse public comment" by Together officials or the Together office about the government's offer. An urgent conference is held before the QIRC, extending late into the night.

6 August 2013

QIRC's decision is released rejecting the PSC's application. Thousands of union members rally outside Parliament House in support of fair wages and in opposition to politicians' pay increase. The politicians concede and send their wage rise to the remuneration tribunal.

12 August 2013

Together ballot of members in relation to the offer is launched.

6 September 2013

Together ballot of members closes. Outcome of ballot is 87% voting in favour of continuing in arbitration. Members always decide as a union group.

13 September 2013

The Commission announces that the arbitration cannot proceed until after the Supreme Court hearing in December.

15 October 2013

The Governments Independent Remuneration Tribunal for Members of Parliament awards them a backdated pay increase to August 2011 and a 3.02% wage increase backdated to 1 July 2013, as well as reclassifications.

17 October 2013

Government rush through legislation trying to firm up their case for the Supreme Court. A complete act of dishonesty and abuse of power.

11 December 2013

Following a concerted campaign by Together members the Premier does a u-turn and implements a pay increase. 2.2%, dating only from 1 December, and lower than his own pay increase of 3% dating to 1 July. Together members resolve to continue the arbitration and the Supreme Court hearing.

13 December 2013

Supreme Court hearing. Together members put their case.

6 June 2014

Supreme Court issues their decision. Together members win! The QIRC should have been able to award an interim wage increase and the Government was wrong to seek to delay it.

11 June 2014

Together launches the Fair Pay for All petition to the Premier to "stop delaying, start paying." The campaign for Fair Pay For All continues.

31 August 2014

Your full page ad about fair pay for all and broken promises on wages goes in the Sunday Mail.

12 September 2014

Fair Pay Friday! Fair Pay for All, not just for politicians campaign action day

19 October 2014

Fair Pay protest at Bundaberg community cabinet. A delegation of schools members hand over the Fair Pay petition with thousands of signatures and talk about their pay and how it needs to improve.

December 2014-January 2015

Together members put ads on the air in support of Fair Pay, doorknock and write letters to the community. Community support for fair pay for public sector workers is overwhelmingly positive.

31 January 2015

A new Government elected, fair pay for all was a key message in the election campaign, as was no more broken promises!

May 20 2015

Palaszczuk Government passes legislation to link their politicians payrises to the public service.

June 4 2015

Legislation restoring public sector workers rights to job security, consultation and fair conditions passes the Parliament. The legislation also allows for the QIRC to hear wage cases on the facts only and not to be dictated to by the Government of the day. "Restoring Fairness" legislation is a big win for Together members who campaigned hard to "Bring on the Vote!"

June 2015

No new Government wages policy released yet. Together members seeking fair back-dating and a better wages policy now.

Join the campaign!

So what's happened with just the \$?

Due a payrise - 1 September 2012, referred to arbitration in the QIRC 31 January 2013; 2.2% "interim" payrise after big campaign 1 December 2013; 2.2% "interim" payrise 1 December 2014 – what's next?!