

Spotless DHB Agreement Signed

The Union and contractor Spotless have signed off their public hospital collective employment agreement following an overwhelming membership vote of approval.

The new Spotless Collective Employment Agreement includes some changes that have also been recently negotiated into to District Health Board MECA, including a 2% increase on wages from 1 April for an Agreement that will expire on 31 December 2010. It beds in some improved rights for union delegates, recognition of service if a member restarts employment with less than a month's gap in employment and the retention of all other conditions.

National Secretary John Ryall congratulated Spotless on its boldness in agreeing to the same wage deal as the District Health Boards.

"Since the major dispute the union had with Spotless in 2007/08 both parties have worked hard in improving their relationship. The product of this is the current settlement."

Union National Negotiating Team member and Kenepuru Hospital food supervisor, Maria Churms, said her members were pleased about the no-nonsense way that Spotless approached the negotiations.

"Our members were overjoyed that the negotiations went so smoothly and we are awaiting an early payment of our new pay rates."

LATE NEWS: Compass have also now agreed to the 2% payrise, as this newsletter went to print, but this still has to be ratified by our members.

This means Union members employed by Spotless and the District Health Boards are about to get paid out on their new rates, and Compass have agreed to pay the increase from 1 April (subject to ratification).

Trouble Looming with Other Contractors

OCS and ISS are yet to offer any wage increase with constant excuses that they are still talking to the District Health Boards.

Members employed by OCS and ISS are getting ready to take strike action.

The strike action in these two companies is due to start on Thursday 3 June and will also include some further action in the following week.

Union National President and Compass employee Barbara Wyeth said that OCS and ISS needed to put the interests of their staff ahead of the company's narrow commercial interests.

"All SFWU public hospital members went into this bargaining round together and we are not going to accept that just because we work for a penny-pinching contractor, rather than a reasonable one, should we get paid a lower pay increase."

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Union to Approach DHBs

The Union will be approaching the District Health Boards that contract with OCS and ISS to complain about the attitude these companies have taken to some of the lowest paid workers in the public hospital system.

We have already received messages of support from the Nurses Organisation, the PSA and the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists around our dispute and will be talking to them about what we can do to bring them into line.

Union Northern Region Secretary Jill Ovens said that OCS and ISS need to decide whether they want to stay in the public hospital system or should depart.

“We think the 2% pay increase is not only being paid to nearly all of the 50,000 public hospital union members, but is extremely reasonable in terms of the wider state sector bargaining,” said Jill.

“If these contractors don’t sign up for this deal they are giving the signal to the DHBs and the union that they don’t want to be part of the public hospital collective arrangements.”

Getting Ready for the Strike Action

All union members employed by OCS and ISS should make sure they know the times for the strikes in their hospitals.

While union members employed by ISS in the Southern DHB are striking initially from 11.30 pm on Thursday 3 June for 24 hours other workers employed by OCS and ISS in the other DHBs are striking between 7am to 9am, 11am to 1pm, and 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm on both Thursday 3 June and Friday 4 June.



There will probably be a mediation hearing with the two contractors prior to the strikes occurring.

Local organisers and delegates will communicate further around the outcome of these meetings.

DHB directly employed members - payout on the way!

Directly employed DHB members will get the 2% payrise as soon as the DHBs can get the new pay rates entered into their payroll system. The back-pay will be paid once they have worked out how much is owing to our members.

SFWU MEMBER SUPPORT

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