2 October 2018

To our valued public servants

The Palaszczuk Government is currently negotiating with public sector unions for a range of new enterprise bargaining agreements for the state public sector.

As we did during our first term in office, the Government is bargaining in good faith to reach agreements that provide fair and reasonable wages and conditions.

For that reason, I wish to correct the record in relation to claims you may have seen from Together Queensland that the Government is offering a 0% pay increase in current negotiations.

These claims are false and misleading.

The Government’s wage offer is 2.5% per annum over three years—not zero.

In fact, as a result of measures undertaken by the Palaszczuk Government to restore fairness to the public sector, workers at some classifications will see their rates increase by up to 3.5% in line with the recent State Wage Case.

These measures include:

- Ensuring that the rates of pay in public sector awards keep pace with the actual rates paid under agreements by restoring legislation to allow the ‘flow on’ of expired agreement rates into public sector awards (this unique provision has resulted in award rates that range from 12 to 39% higher than they would have been if only annual state wage case increases had been applied).

- Supporting state wage case outcomes that deliver decent wage increases for those workers who are unable to bargain and are reliant on the award system.

- Applying the no-disadvantage provisions in the Public Service Directive 12/12 and the current core agreement to ensure that where there is a difference between the award rate and the agreement rate, the higher rate will be paid.

Unfortunately, the Together Union is showing complete disregard for the strong actions taken by this Government to deliver fairness to the public sector and exploiting our policy of no-disadvantage by claiming both the 2.5% being offered in bargaining and the State Wage Case 3.5% increase.

To be clear, no worker will receive 0%.

Whether through the award, through the current bargaining negotiations or a combination of the two, workers will receive an increase of at least 2.5% on top of their current agreement rates.

I have asked Together Queensland to explain the full picture to their members and cease the misleading claims of a 0% wage offer.

For its part, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to bargain in good faith with public sector unions and their members.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations