

AEU NT Member Bulletin 3/2022

2 December 2022

New Offer – ballot open until 2pm, Monday 12 December

As you will be aware, we have a new offer from the OCPE, back paid to 2021. This time, we encourage you to take your time to carefully consider the pros and cons of this current offer. The ballot will remain open until 2pm Monday 12 December. There is no need to rush.

The AEU NT has adopted a neutral stance. We are aware there is a full spectrum of opinions across the membership, so the Branch Executive has chosen to leave it to you to have your say.

Does it work for you? **VOTE YES**

Prefer to keep fighting? **VOTE NO**

Why vote NO?

- This offer fails to consider the real rising costs of living in the NT.
- This offer does not come close to current CPI.
- There is no clarification about the funding source for the percentage pay rises: Are they to be centrally funded or taken straight out of the budgets of already struggling schools? Hear Attorney-General Chansey Paech's comments around the potential impact on school budgets at: <https://www.mix1049.com.au/show/mornings/> ("The Week That Was" – 2/12/22, 30:00)
- Whilst this offer leaves NT teachers among the highest paid in the country, by 2023 graduate teachers will be paid less than their QLD counterparts (see NTG provided graphs).
- According to NTG materials, our experienced teachers appear to be the best paid in the country by 2023. However, with negotiations still underway for NSW and QLD and no information available post-2022 for ACT, SA, TAS and WA we should be wary of making assumptions.

Why vote YES?

- This is an improvement on the revised NTG wages policy of 2% and there is a full commitment to backpay. We are seeking clarification of how it will be paid and to whom.
- Increased non-contact time for graduate teachers and mentors won.
- Remote members will have the ability to bank FOILs and there will be improved career progression for ATs.
- Formalisation of retention payments for Katherine teachers and a commitment to review teacher workloads and homeland teacher allowances.
- An additional PD Day along with a range of non-pay improvements won in earlier offers are included.

Where to next?

- **If the offer is voted up**, we will get on with answering your questions, continue to advocate for greater change and lay the groundwork for future improvements. We would return to the negotiating table mid-2024.
- **If the offer is voted down**, we will use the upcoming break to finalise an EA strategy going forward. You should expect a new Protected Action Ballot early in Term 1, 2023 followed by strong action.

The employee ballot for this 3-year (2021-2024) offer is open until **2pm Monday 12 December**. All those employed under the *NTPS Non-Contract Principals, Teachers and Assistant Teachers' Agreement* are eligible to vote.

We are conscious that work pressures and workloads concern not only you, but students, parents and carers. There is an important decision to be made here. We urge you to carefully consider what most helps attract and retain the well-qualified educators our system needs: the certainty of a settled EA before the year's end or a continued campaign to achieve improved pay and conditions?

Your Voice. Your Choice.