NTPS ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

NTPS GENERAL ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT INFORMATION SHEET 3/2017

This bulletin only applies to employees covered by the NTPS 2013–2017 Enterprise Agreement

NORTHERN TERRITORY ALLOWANCE

After I made the offer for a new enterprise agreement a number of staff provided feedback through the website. Many staff are supportive of the offer and raised questions about what the Northern Territory Allowance (NTA) was and how the proposed grand-parenting changes might affect them.

The NTA stemmed from a series of 'District Allowances' which were originally provided to Commonwealth employees before the NTPS became into existence. The allowance was provided, along with other remote area incentives such as airfares in recognition of the additional cost of living, climate and isolation of the remote locations to attract Commonwealth public servants to take up roles in the Territory.

The Territory is now much more attractive to live in and raise families compared to 30 years ago. During this time the local university was established, there has been an increase in festivals and community events as well as an increase in international flights into South East Asia. With the majority of recruits being employed locally the allowance is not as relevant as it was 30 years ago to attract public servants to the Territory.

Currently the NTA for those employed after 1 August 1987 is $960. It is proposed that those currently receiving the allowance will continue to do so. For employees who commenced before 1 August 1987 NTA is applied at different rates depending on the increment for their designation. It is proposed that a single rate for each designation is established which would not be reduced during periods of higher duties.

To assist employees in understanding the changes follow the links below:

- employed after 1 August 1987
- employed prior to 1 August 1987