



WORD BACK



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21 December 2017

A B C D Day Retained

Enterprise Agreement Certified Today

I am pleased to advise members of the UFU of the certification of the SAMFS Enterprise Agreement 2017 (EA) today in the SA Employment Tribunal (SAET).

In his determination at the conclusion of the hearing this afternoon, the SAET Commissioner advised that the date of operation of the EA would be today, 21 December 2017.

This means that 21 December 2017 will be the date of operation for all new initiatives agreed *unless* otherwise specified in the EA.

For example, the new increment for eligible SFF's and the increased entitlements for Retained Firefighters will operate from the first full pay period on or after today.

However, the first of the three 1.6% pay increases for all Firefighters employed under the EA will be paid as per the provisions of the Agreement, from the *first full pay period on or after 1 January 2018*.

Discussions have commenced with the SAMFS on the mid-term increase to apply from 1 July 2018. Please note that the pay rates contained in the EA will be amended through an application to the SAET at that time, to reflect the quantum of the mid-term increase.

A programme of recruitment is underway to employ the agreed additional 54 employees as quickly as possible and the Health and Wellness Unit is full steam ahead.

Please see the full details of the EA in the document available to you on the SAMFS Members Only Website (MOW). UFU Shop Stewards and State Councillors have a draft of the now certified EA and we understand that the new EA will also be published on the SAET website shortly.

Award Amendment

In accordance with the Government's offer in settlement of our EA claim, the draft application to amend our Award to exempt firefighters from the cut off provisions of the *Return to Work Act* is almost ready to lodge.

A response has now been received from the Office for the Public Service and the parties are finalising the last details to be included in our application and we still hope to have this lodged before Xmas 2017.

Congratulations to you all on this outcome and very best wishes to you and your families for the festive season.

In solidarity

Greg Northcott

Secretary