



August 2, 2012

## **EB NEWSLETTER**

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### **In This Issue**

**Negotiations  
continue.**



### **The Next Stage**

As I have previously advised your union is persisting with negotiations with QFRS to try and achieve an acceptable and fair agreement package for your consideration.

Your union advised QFRS weeks ago at meetings and in writing that a 1 July 2012 operative date for a wage increase was not a priority for members.

As I have previously explained to members and QFRS it is important that all details and proposals are examined carefully and there is no benefit in rushing.

Sensibly, members have made it very clear that they are in no rush to get a wage increase which is conditional on unacceptable changes.

As I have previously reported, QFRS have requested the QIRC to assist in negotiations. We are currently working to a timetable arranged with QIRC which involves conferences next week. In the meantime, as arranged with QIRC, your union is consulting with other unions involved in the Certified Agreement in order to co-ordinate a combined response and options to assist with the QIRC process.

We envisage that negotiations will take some time to work through all of the issues however, we will report if any progress is reached.

Members would be aware from media reports that the government is increasing its assault on employment conditions and rights across the public sector. Further legislative amendments are also on their way which has been designed to advantage the government even further.

Some members have expressed concern to the union about a perceived lack of support of employees by the QFRS Commissioner during these challenging times. I ask members to support each other at this stage and await the outcomes of the QIRC conciliated process.



I note the Commissioner's QFRS newsletter dated 31 July 2012 which could be read as suggesting that your union is not committed to negotiations and is not concerned about issues confronting our members. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Your union will not retreat from our standing up for a fair result for members and will strongly reject any inference from anybody, anytime, anywhere, who suggests otherwise.

Your union will make every effort to see if an acceptable agreement can be reached and we will see how QFRS approach the matter under the QIRC supervision they requested.

**John Oliver**  
**State Secretary**

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