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# Teachers & Educators Collective Bargaining Update # 36

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To: AEU Reps *for the attention of all AEU NT members at your workplace*

From: Full-time Officers AEU-NT

Date: 6 May 2008

file ref: 06058412

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## AEU-NT MEETS WITH TREASURER

The AEU-NT met with the NT Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, late on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, specifically to discuss issues around the NT Government Teachers & Educators Union Collective Agreement (UCA). The Treasurer made the following points -

1. The Government is not prepared to move on its salary offer, either in quantum or duration. Some of the reasons the Treasurer gave were -
  - Teachers will receive a 4% pay rise over the first two years of the new agreement, which is above the current inflation rate in Darwin (3.9%).
  - The Government's wages policy doesn't give her the authority to offer anything better.
  - The current offer will initially make Territory teachers the second best paid in the country. We will fall to third when NSW teachers sign off on their agreement, but come back to second when the last stage of salary increase (3%) kicks in. (*This was the Government's position before the Victorian settlement was announced*).
2. The Government is prepared to continue to look at remote allowances and incentives if the AEU-NT will provide evidence of any employee disadvantaged by the current offer.
3. The current offer of backdating has a limited life. If teachers continue to refuse the current pay offer, it will be taken off the table. The Treasurer wouldn't give a specific deadline when teachers needed to respond positively to the pay offer, but indicated it was a matter of weeks.
4. School Development Days could be put back on the table if teachers continued to reject government offers.
5. The AEU-NT is welcome to discuss the initiatives in the Minister for Education's announcement "*Transforming Indigenous Education*" outside the Bargaining process. We were invited to submit our issues to the Minister.

**The AEU-NT hopes to meet with the Commissioner later this week to continue to negotiate the agreement.**