



Mission Australia

3 December 2009

Ms Jo Justo
National Industrial Officer
The Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union

Mission Australia
Reply Paid 9860
IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY

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Dear Jo,

I refer to your correspondence dated 1 December 2009 in which you raised objections to conducting negotiations on 10 and 11 December by a combination of face to face and teleconference (for those bargaining representatives not located in Sydney).

Mission Australia believes that the negotiations set down for 10-11 December could be effectively conducted by teleconference given the detailed discussions that have occurred in the negotiations to date. Our decision to conduct those negotiations by teleconference took this into account as well as the considerable cost of face to face negotiations involving such a large number of bargaining representatives. As previously indicated, we do not believe that negotiations via teleconference will impede the effectiveness of discussions or the ability of the bargaining representatives to fully participate in this important process. We also do not agree with your view that this would be a breach of the good faith bargaining requirements of the Fair Work Act.

However, we do not want this issue to distract from the most important priority which is achieving a timely finalisation of our negotiations.

For this reason, we agree for the negotiations on 10-11 December to be conducted face to face in our Sydney office. However, for any further negotiations, we expect that a teleconference approach would be appropriate given the cost of face to face negotiations and the likely issues requiring further discussion.

Given the above, we will work with the bargaining representatives to confirm travel arrangements as soon as possible.

Jo, please feel free to contact me on (02) 9219 2087 or via email to mccullochf@missionaustralia.com.au should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona McCulloch
Employee Relations Manager
Mission Australia

COMPASSION INTEGRITY RESPECT PERSEVERANCE CELEBRATION

Our Vision is to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life