



Annual Wage review:C2022/1

1. The AMWU makes the following submission following the Expert Panel's decision in the Annual Wage Review 2021-22¹ and subsequent statement inviting feedback in respect of the draft determinations.

Apprentice rates

2. The AMWU has had opportunity to review the submissions of the ACTU advancing the proposition that the draft determinations be amended so that all adult rates in modern awards, including those applicable to apprentices increase by \$40 a week.
3. The AMWU supports the submission of the ACTU that the draft determinations, as currently drafted, do not ensure that the minimum increase of \$40 per week is afforded to all adult rates, such as adult apprentices whose wages are set as a percentage of the other specified award rates. This results in a weekly increase of less than \$40 for these workers.
4. This result appears in Awards that apply to the members of the AMWU such as the:
 - a) *The Manufacturing Award*
 - b) *The Food Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing Award and the;*
 - c) *The Graphic Art and Printing Award*
5. This means that adult apprentices in these Awards whose rate is set as the percentage of a particular classification in a modern award, will miss out on the rate increase as it will not be matched by the percentage rise that applies to the classification rate.

¹ [2022] FWCFB 3500

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6. The decision of the expert panel focused on alleviating the pressures on the low paid, with the across the board increase in award wages, to be of benefit to the lowest paid workers².
7. Failing to address this discrepancy in the needs of low paid apprentices in these awards would be contradictory to the rationale of the AWR decision.

AMWU

27 June 2022

² Annual Wage Review, [53-, [132-33], [153], [190-191] [194]