

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Industrial Relations Act 2016 – s 458

Queensland Council of Unions

Together Queensland, Industrial Union of Employees

Applicants

v

State of Queensland

Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd

Respondents


INDUSTRIAL REGISTRAR

14 AUG 2026


QUEENSLAND

Matter Nos. B/2026/59 and B/2026/60

**APPLICATION FOR A DECLARATION OF GENERAL RULING
2026 STATE WAGE CASE**

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF UNIONS – SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

1. The Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) makes the following supplementary submissions in respect of the approach to be taken in the 2026 State Wage Case (SWC) regarding the adjustment of expense-related allowances in response to the Registry's email dated 11 August 2026.
2. The QCU submit that the Full Bench should take the same approach in respect of the adjustment of expense related allowances as the Fair Work Commission (FWC) in the Annual Wage Review 2026 (AWR).¹
3. The QCU's position is advanced on the following basis:
 - (a) The relevant clauses in respect of the adjustment of expense related allowances in state awards are prescribed in similar terms to federal awards. Namely, there is reference to 'the relevant adjustment factor' which is prescribed for the relevant

¹ *Expense Related Allowances 2026 - Decision* [2026] FWCFB 136, [2] and [7].

purposes as being ‘the percentage movement in the applicable index figure most recently published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics since the allowance was last adjusted’.²

- (b) The adoption of the March quarter 2026 series in the AWR did not represent any concluded position as to the appropriate indexation methodology to be applied in future years.
 - (c) The approach taken by the FWC ‘is only intended to be an interim measure, and the [FWC] will, prior to the Annual Wage Review 2027, initiate proceedings to determine whether and how the standard clause adjusting expense-related allowances in modern awards should be varied in light of the changes to CPI publication on a long-term basis’.
4. The QCU submit that it is appropriate in the circumstances that proceedings in this jurisdiction about the variation of modern award clauses in respect of the adjustment of expense related allowances, if necessary, do not occur until the outcome of the FWC proceedings is known to the parties.

N. Tosh
Queensland Council of Unions
14 August 2026

² See, e.g., clause 13.6(c) of the *Teaching in State Education Award – State 2016* and clause C.2.2(a) of the *Educational Services (Teachers) Award 2020*.