

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *Re: In the matter of the making of Modern Awards – Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2015* [2016] QIRC 12

PARTIES: **State of Queensland (Office of Industrial Relations)**
Legal Aid Queensland
Together Queensland, Industrial Union of Employees

CASE NO: MAP/2015/11

PROCEEDING: Making of a modern award

DELIVERED ON: 29 January 2016

HEARING DATE: 11 December 2015

HEARD AT: Brisbane

MEMBERS: Deputy President O'Connor
Deputy President Kaufman
Industrial Commissioner Neate

ORDERS:

- 1. That the *Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2015* be made pursuant to section 140CE(1)(a) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* ("the Act") and operate on and from 11 December 2015, subject to the provisions of section 824 of the Act.**
- 2. That the *Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2014* be repealed on and from 11 December 2015, subject to the provisions of section 824 of the Act.**

CATCHWORDS: INDUSTRIAL LAW - AWARD MODERNISATION - MAKING OF A MODERN AWARD - Section 140C(1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* - request from the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships - *Legal Aid*

Queensland Employees Award - State 2015 - Modern Award made.

CASES: *Industrial Relations Act 1999*, Chapter 5, Part 8, Division 2, ss 140BB, 140C(1), 140CE(1)(a), 824

APPEARANCES: Mr M. Anderson for the State of Queensland (Office of Industrial Relations)

Ms R Wilkinson and Ms K. Camden for Legal Aid Queensland

Mr R. Rule for Together Queensland, Industrial Union of Employees

Reasons for Decision

- [1] The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission ("the Commission") recommenced the award modernisation process following the passing of amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* ("the Act") and the issuing of a variation to the existing Ministerial Request ("the Consolidated Request") on 17 July 2015.
- [2] Section 140BB of the Act sets out the Commission's Award Modernisation functions, as follows:

"140BB Commission's award modernisation function"

- (1) The functions of the commission include carrying out a process (*award modernisation process*) to reform and modernise pre-modernisation awards.
- (2) In performing its functions under this part, the commission must have regard to the following factors -
 - (a) promoting the creation of jobs, high levels of productivity, low inflation, high levels of employment and labour force participation, national and international competitiveness, the development of skills and a fair labour market;
 - (b) the need to help prevent and eliminate discrimination in employment;
 - (c) protecting the position in the labour market of young people, employees engaged as apprentices or trainees and employees with a disability;
 - (d) the needs of low-paid employees;
 - (e) the need to promote the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value;
 - (f) the need to help employees balance their work and family responsibilities effectively and to improve retention and participation of employees in the workforce;
 - (g) the safety, health and welfare of employees;
 - (h) the Queensland minimum wage;
 - (i) the desirability of reducing the number of awards operating under this Act; and

(j) the representation rights of organisations and associations under this Act.

(3) This section does not limit section 140D."

- [3] In accordance with Chapter 5, Part 8, Division 2 of the Act (i.e. the Award Modernisation process provisions of the Act) and the Consolidated Request under s 140C(1) of the Act by the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships ("the Minister"), the Award Modernisation Team ("AMOD Team") of the Commission prepared an Exposure Draft of a proposed *Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2015* ("the Proposed Award").
- [4] On 26 November 2015, Deputy President Bloomfield referred a finalised version of the consent Proposed Award to Deputy President O'Connor for the consideration of the Full Bench.
- [5] On 26 November 2015, the Proposed Award was referred to this Full Bench for hearing and the matter was listed and heard on 11 December 2015.
- [6] The Full Bench, after considering the Proposed Award, and being satisfied that the Proposed Award complies with the requirements of the Act in relation to modern awards; is consistent with the statutory objects of the award modernisation process; and meets the requirements of the Minister's Consolidated Request, is of the view that the Proposed Award ought to be made in the terms of the award attached to these reasons and operate on and from 11 December 2015.
- [7] Accordingly, the Full Bench makes the following orders:
1. That the *Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2015* be made pursuant to section 140CE(1)(a) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* ("the Act") and operate on and from 11 December 2015, subject to the provisions of section 824 of the Act.
 2. That the *Legal Aid Queensland Employees Award - State 2014* be repealed on and from 11 December 2015, subject to the provisions of section 824 of the Act.