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GENEROUS BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS REVEALED IN NEW REPORT

Australian Public Service employees enjoy significantly better working conditions and pay than private sector employees, according to a new report released today by the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

The new report, *Driving a Soft Bargain: Examining the Commonwealth Public Sector Enterprise Agreements 2011-2014*, argues that federal public servants are already paid high wages, and all existing agreements also contain generous allowances and conditions rarely seen in the private sector.

“Ongoing public service enterprise bargaining disputes are being driven by unreasonable demands from unions representing exceptionally well-remunerated public servants,” says James Paterson, Deputy Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs and a co-author of the report.

“Over the past decade, federal public servants’ pay has risen by 50.7 per cent, far more than the increase in CPI of 31.8 per cent.”

“In May 2014, public sector full-time adult average yearly earnings were \$81,114.80, compared to the private sector average yearly earnings of \$74,152.00. The idea that public servants are underpaid is completely unsubstantiated.”

“There are also generous allowances in Australian Public Service agreements which are uncommon in the private sector,” says Mr Paterson. These allowances include:

- Being appointed a ‘Wellbeing Site Representative’ adds \$613 per year to a public servant’s salary (ATO Agreement)
- An allowance of \$100 for purchasing clothing for different climates (Department of Social Services Agreement)
- A \$300 per year gym membership subsidy (Department of Agriculture Agreement)
- A \$165 subsidy towards prescription eyewear (Department of Health Agreement)

“Public servants already get a very good deal from taxpayers. In a time when public spending is at unsustainable levels, enterprise agreements must curtail the overly generous benefits enjoyed by public servants,” says Mr Paterson.

The report, *Driving a Soft Bargain: Examining the Commonwealth Public Sector Enterprise Agreements 2011-2014*, by Aaron Lane, PhD candidate in economics and lawyer, and James Paterson, Deputy Executive Director of the IPA, is available to download [here](#).

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