# Wages

The question posed:

Let the Commission know if your wage is enough to get by.

For example: Have your household finances got harder or easier in the last few years? How often do you receive a pay rise? How would you cope if you received a pay cut or pay freeze?

| Line | Location | State | Response |
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| 278 | Ainslie | ACT | With the government's policies leading to unsustainable rises in house process I fear for the younger generation unless they have financial support from family. Pay rises should automatically rise annually for Commonwealth Employees at the same rate as that of Commonwealth politicians who do not have to put in any improved productivity to support their pay rises. |
| 41 | Banks | ACT | Decided to work time and live a life that is more work life balance, does not always work. So live on less money. But manage. We usually have a pay rise over the 3 years when the agreement is made. A pay freeze would be tough as the cost of living continues to go up. |
| 293 | Banks | ACT | I get just enough income to get by. |
| 305 | Calwell | ACT | Every time we get a pay rise it is only to help catch up with higher prices but recently it doesn't matter what we cut down on we cannot keep pace with all the price increases. I feel that we are no better off now than I was when I was on a much lower wage. |
| 341 | Holder | ACT | I try to live within my means but things have been getting harder over the past few years, we haven't had a substantial pay rise since 2008, we are well overdue for a couple of pay rises now but are being held off until the negotiations are completed. A pay cut would be unacceptable. A pay freeze after the owed back pay is paid out would be extremely disappointing and hard to justify without a resulting decrease in our expected workload and or increase in other benefits to compensate for the freeze. |
| 73 | Isabella Plains | ACT | As I work part-time for health reasons, I am able to pay bills because of my husband's income. I receive a pay rise according to the workplace agreement, but this does not provide wiggle room as my healthcare has cost a lot over the last decade. I like to support charities but need to be conscious of the impact on the budget. |
| 335 | Monash | ACT | My family have now just about grown up. What is affecting my concerns is that my husband has lost his job due to public service cuts and therefore my pay has become very important. I am hoping for ongoing pay rises to meet our mortgage and other payments. Without his pay managing finances is very challenging and requires many changes to what we can support i.e. charities etc as well as holidays. |
| 188 | Nicholls | ACT | Due to MoG (merging Departments) changes I now do the same job as a colleague at the same level but she gets paid more than $10,000 more than I do.... All APS agencies should have the SAME Pay rates - I thought discrimination was against the Law. |
| 270 | Page | ACT | As a part time person, it is a constant hassle to manage finances. As I am only guaranteed 20 hours per week, I am unable to plan for the future as I am unable to predict my future income. I don't spend money on luxuries such as eating out, movies, and delay any medical expenses as much as possible. I have not seen dentist in 3 years as there are always more pressing things for what little savings I have. |
| 95 | Spence | ACT | My household finances have gotten A LOT HARDER in the last few years, the cost of living has sky rocketed. Bills, and food is all I can afford. New clothes, a holiday forget it. I can't even ask a woman out on date as I can't afford a meal out let alone two movie tickets. Growing my own veggie is the only way I can afford to eat healthy. Bad food is cheap and good food is expensive. |
| 308 |  |  | I am the breadwinner of my family. Any pay freeze or cut wold severely affect my ability to provide for my children. I would have to consider selling my home and renting instead. |
| 45 | Arrawarra Headland | NSW | Financially times are tighter. Teachers pay rates are attached to CPI. A weak economy means lower salaries. |
| 100 | Avoca | NSW | It’s definitely got harder over the last few years. With kids starting uni and the ever increasing cost of living. Petrol until recently was just going up and up. If we didn't have penalty rate see would have to question whether it’s worth continuing to do the job we do. |
| 413 | Balgowlah | NSW | It is becoming consistently harder as the inflation rate has not been match by the wages. All bills have increased while the wages have not. |
| 233 | Ballina | NSW | We have received a paltry increase that is about five dollars spread over ten years. We spend quite a bit of money driving to clients for short shifts and it makes it hard. |
| 104 | Barden Ridge | NSW | A pay rise nowadays is unheard of all we get from management is work harder for less pay already. If I had a pay cut or freeze then again a massive financial impact on our family and could lose our house |
| 287 | Bellingen | NSW | No. Already living below the poverty line and other cut induces myself and family to be further impoverished. |
| 314 | Berry | NSW | Like many others, I am finding our finances tighter and tighter. I have a job and a wage, which means we never go hungry, and we are lucky enough to have paid our mortgage off. However, pay cuts or freezes would make life very difficult for us. |
| 416 | Blackbutt | NSW | I receive a pay rise less than yearly as I work part time hours. The cost of living is increasing significantly and while I am lucky that I have a small mortgage, I would not be able to cope if I had to pay rent in the current rental market as many of my colleagues do. If I received a pay cut or pay freeze, life would become much more difficult. I do not have another adult in the house to assist with finances and it may mean that I would have to find a second job, however finding child care is difficult enough. |
| 354 | Blaxland | NSW | My pay has been inflation scaled but my expenditure was much higher than this through massive energy cost increases fuel etc. Only historically low interest rates have made it possible. |
| 106 | Bondi | NSW | My wage is generally sufficient to get by but given my extensive experience and qualifications it seems quite meagre. A pay cut or pay freeze would involve hardship for myself and my family. |
| 50 | Bossley Park | NSW | Everything has gone up, we cannot afford to buy things that we need, not what we want, pay rises do not keep up to the rate of commodities going up. A pay freeze would seriously affect the family and it's ability to make ends meet. We want to live not to just exist.... |
| 184 | Bowen Mountain | NSW | After negotiating my salary two and a half years ago, I recently found that my cost of living had been creeping up. Both my daughters are now in high school, and I have started to struggle financially. I was working up the courage to re-negotiate my salary, but now I have lost my job. |
| 14 | Camden South | NSW | As a public sector worker, the NSW Government has already capped our wage rises. It's keeping pace with inflation, but it's still a struggle. I couldn't cope financially with a pay cut, not one cent. |
| 98 | Campsie | NSW | I have no complaint about my wage |
| 178 | Campsie | NSW | No way can I live on my wage. I struggle and go without food and petrol to make ends never meet. I am only alive today due to the support of my partner. During my early years of my back injury. When debtors are chasing you to pay medical bills for a workplace injury and you have no income because the insurance company have changed your case worker and not told you so no payment has been made for months you give up hope and see suicide as the only option. When your employer is harassing you and you’re in chronic nerve pain and can hardly walk 10 metres without collapsing. You feel like the system that is meant to help you is actually actively trying its best to kill you. You are dehumanised. You introduce yourself as a case number. |
| 206 | Canowindra | NSW | My wages are vitally important to us as my partner is unemployed. |
| 116 | Carey Bay | NSW | My income as a self-funded widower retiree is adequate for me to support charities of my choice to the extent of about $1500 per month. Those charities have been chosen well in advance. |
| 271 | Carss Park | NSW | I get paid well but the household buying power has definitely reduced over the past 5 years. Any wage rises we have got have been less than inflation. The cost of housing has sky-rocketed in my area. I'm getting near retirement age & if there was a pay cut or pay freeze it would probably give me further inducement to accelerate my retirement plans as there would be no gain in continuing to work. |
| 237 | Casula | NSW | It’s very difficult with what we are being paid at the moment, we don't have CPI increases, I mean even people on Centrelink payments have CPI indexation every year. This is unfair, we work hard, and only look forward to the department to offer a reasonable pay offer. But instead the offer is based on a condition by the department, which means we are not guaranteed a pay rise anyway. Daycare costs, before and after school care cost go up every July, but our pay doesn't. It’s very difficult. |
| 55 | Caves Beach | NSW | Well, current LNP government and advisers seem concerned only with cutting salaries, wages, benefits - though not govt subsidies to BIG BIZ! Not Fair! |
| 296 | Cessnock | NSW | We have gone from fortnightly pay with penalty rates to monthly salary with time in Lew which has made more difficult to bank and save money. Banks don't trade "Time In Lieu". Not possible to save money. |
| 448 | Chatswood | NSW | Wages have not increased compared to cost of living. Pay rise of 2.25% a year is a joke. Private health just went up 6%. Currently in NSW night shift penalties are 15% for public nurses. This is also a joke compared to other states. WA is 35%. |
| 439 | Clarence | NSW | Until recently I was a university student living on youth allowance. Now I am working a job which requires me to drive to work sites and my commute is 1 to 2 hours each way each day. Once I have factored in petrol, car maintenance and rego, I am only slightly better off working full time casual then I was on Centrelink. I regularly have to borrow money from my parents if an emergency comes up, like repairs to my car and an unexpectedly large bill. On weeks I get less than full time hours, it is even harder to get by. |
| 424 | Clothiers Creek | NSW | We only receive a few cents pay rise at a time. |
| 219 | Como | NSW | my wage is just about enough to get by |
| 402 | Coonamble | NSW | I would be looking for another job if there was a pay cut! It’s hard to make ends meet, how can people work so hard and get paid so little? |
| 165 | Croudace Bay | NSW | I am happy with my current wage |
| 212 | Diamond Beach | NSW | I believe household expenses have increased more than my wage which I currently receive a 2.5% increase per annum. I manage as we have two full time wages coming in but wouldn't be able to manager on 1 wage. My husband works in private enterprise and is earning less that he earned 5 years ago so this also puts stress on our finances. |
| 317 | Dorrigo | NSW | There is no doubt that working conditions including wages have deteriorated relative to cost of living pressures in recent years. Do those responsible really want to see working poor in Australia as is common in the US? It is not a pretty sight to see workers scramble for tips. |
| 66 | Dulwich Hill | NSW | Nothing is getting cheaper except a temporary lull in petrol prices due to international power games being played in the international oil industry. This in itself is a vulnerability that is not always apparent...but that's another story. Pay rises are less than CPI (Consumer Price Index) levels. Effectively the standard of living is falling. Theoretically our costs should be reducing because of the not so full nest (two out of three moved out). But with rentals at prohibitive levels to a late aged student, living at home is an almost unavoidable option. So the costs don't quite disappear. Pay rises are regular because of Union involvement but not at parity with real costs. |
| 241 | Earlwood | NSW | Our finances at home have been getting more and more difficult and I am sure the future will be even more so. Our last pay rise was in July 2013 of approx. |
| 343 | East Hills | NSW | In our EBA negotiations jobs was a higher concern than wage increases but it is very very hard to manage in my current wage |
| 275 | East Kurrajong | NSW | My wages have been getting much worse over the last few years. Wages that were quite good in comparison to the industry when I began employment have deteriorated to the point where they no longer make up for the loss of conditions we have suffered. Before I took a redundancy, I was away from home for more than 13 hours a day for 8 hours pay, with workloads increasing all the time to the literal point of breaking, incentives to work diminishing even regarding a boss' ability to show gratitude for good work. Ironically, I have found life to be much more affordable without a job at all than with one that had diminishing returns, after taking into account travel costs and other costs associated with employment. |
| 398 | Eastern Creek | NSW | They are harder with the carbon tax. Which is gone but the electric bill still goes up petrol is cheaper but is going back up. A pay freeze or cut would be disaster .the mortgage don't have a freeze interest rate cuts are a help to pay it off sooner but something usually breaks down and that extra for the loan goes to that. I just hope I can pay off all my debts by retirement. If I take my super as a lump sum which I'm just eligible to do .that will happen but will I get the pension. |
| 276 | Erskineville | NSW | It's getting harder, when the kids reach high school the only decent school around is private which I won't be able to afford. |
| 319 | Fairfield | NSW | There has been no pay rise in the last four years but the CPI becomes more and more inflated as years go by. The rental increase is every year with nearly 12% increase every week. All other bills go through the roof and am surprised what is left behind to survive. Families are always in red and it makes me wonder what Western Country we live in as compared to other countries in the world. |
| 310 | Forestville | NSW | I get paid for what I do. The level of responsibility in a shrinking work force. |
| 430 | Glenbrook | NSW | only just as I work without penalties Mon - Fri and am paid the same as a new grad or unskilled casual worker. |
| 141 | Glenmore Park | NSW | As it is we do deprive ourselves a lot at the moment by not having a Night out at Movies or Going out at all, this sometimes put a lot of Pressure on my Wife and myself thinking about the bills coming in. |
| 421 | Goonellabah | NSW | The less my paid work, the more time for me to do that homework to market and/or restructure my business. As a Regional resident, it is necessary to conduct two separate businesses to make enough money to actually save some of it. Thankfully, I have a long-standing interest/'hobby' which may enable me a profit - when I finally get it on the road! |
| 387 | Goulburn | NSW | I consider my wages to be sufficient but I would struggle if I was to receive a pay cut. At this stage of my life I am trying to pay off a mortgage and prepare for retirement so that I am not a burden to the taxpayer. I do not have any residual money for entertainment etc. I live a frugal but what I consider to be a comfortable life. This would not be the case if my pay reduced. The biggest outlays for me outside of my mortgage are medical expenses and vet bills. A pay cut may mean that I would have to make choices about not having medical treatment. A pay freeze would have the same effect. I am however mindful that I am in a better position than people on lower wages, such as my son. He struggles from pay to pay. This is even more so since he was moved from casual to permanent which resulted in a pay cut. He has job security now but a lower wage. When considering the fairness of wages I am baffled by the focus on low income people whenever there is talk of wage cuts or wage freezes. What about the top end of town? Executive wages are far too generous and the bonuses that they receive, which are supposed to be linked to their productivity, are outrageous. How can an employer ask ordinary workers to accept a wage cut or freeze and then give the top executives a wage rise or massive bonus (often in the millions of dollars)? Linked to this is the pay level of politicians. If politicians are advocating for a wages freeze or wage cut then they need to be the first in line. People have the right to receive a fair pay for a fair days work. We should not be expecting the most hard working and disadvantaged people in our society to carry the entire burden of economic growth. |
| 214 | Guerilla Bay | NSW | I am very fortunate to receive a super pension over $50,000 pa. As well as having other income from shares and savings. That said I feel I have earned them though austerity and DIY in my early adulthood. Compared to my co-workers, I am rich and I wouldn't presume to tell them they are earning too much or to take away their penalty rates. |
| 152 | Gymea | NSW | My current income only just covers the basics to support myself, wife & two teenage daughters. Rent for a house we don't enjoy living in costs more than half my take home pay. We can't holiday, rarely eat out (& then it's at cheap places), can't afford entertainment or to pursue any interests/ healthy activities, have to try to fix most things that break, always playing catch up with the bills (don't have the chance to save in advance) & generally feel like I am existing just to work for others benefit. Only regular overtime & penalty rates keep our heads above water. A pay cut or freeze would mean the next annual rent increase would force us to have to choose if we would give up the luxury of electricity, eating on a daily basis or owning a car that makes it possible for me to work. |
| 404 | Gymea | NSW | Finances have got much harder in the past few years....food has got much more expensive, as has petrol and electricity. The increase in nurses wages has not been close to meeting these rises. A pay cut or freeze would be disastrous for me...I have paid out for so much education, I have a bachelors and masters degree plus postgrad intensive care qualifications etc.... I'm not recognized financially for any of it, it's bad enough that I get such an insulting increase each year, but to threaten to reduce or freeze my pay..... It's not worth it.... I laugh and cry with families, I look after dying babies and console their mothers and fathers. My colleagues and I provide such an important service to our society while people sleep, eat Christmas dinner, wish each other happy new year etc..... Yet apparently it's worth nothing extra. |
| 352 | Hamilton | NSW | I have had pay cuts: a recent pay rise was offset by a reduction in paid leave so it was a pay cut and not an actual pay rise. I have similar qualifications to nurses working in the public sector but lower wages and poorer staff to patient ratios so this is again evidence of lower wages. Perhaps the productivity commissioners would like to consider the consequences for themselves, their relatives and friends of not being able to access quality care when needed! |
| 260 | Hamilton North | NSW | Much harder at the moment. Pay rise every year but had a freeze for 18 months and haven't been able to catch up since. |
| 57 | Hobartville | NSW | Everything associated with the cost of living goes up and up. Wages are no longer keeping pace with cost of living expenses. More and more families are renting because they are unable to convince the money lenders that they will be able to continue servicing a mortgage going forward. How can this be productive for the economy? |
| 17 | Hornsby | NSW | Wages have not kept pace with inflation and many people I know are having trouble buying food and paying bills for their family. Social outings have been cut. An employee with lots of social events is generally more enthusiastic and optimistic. |
| 326 | Hornsby | NSW | I receive a base-rate pay rise for each year for up to eight years, then it is capped. The cost of living is increasing at a rate that far out-weighs the rate of increases in income. Working a 7 day rotating roster allows for penalty rates which makes the expenses of everyday life somewhat more bearable. |
| 138 | Kandos | NSW | Much worse. No pay rise. Have had pay cut due to boss not paying O/t and put onto part time even though still doing over 38+ hours a week. Frankly the wage system completely sucks and is not dumbed down enough? put into basic English if you do x you get x. |
| 34 | Kensington | NSW | My wage is enough to get by but is nowhere near equivalent to similar positions in other industries. The "value" of a teacher has been eroded over the past 50 years and it is therefore of little surprise to me that more parents choose to place their children in private schools. I see a crises looming where there will be less and less 'good' teachers willing to work in this industry. |
| 288 | Killara | NSW | The household and the MA000100 require that I work at penalty rate time. Should they be cut or abolished I would leave my job and work privately. |
| 173 | Kingswood | NSW | Since not working, it’s been tough on me ,house hold finances got a lot harder, the wages I used to get was enough to manage my household expenditures, we receive pay rises every now and then. If I was to receive a pay cut or pay freeze, I would be struggle, with everyday life, as everything is so expensive today. |
| 16 | Kooringal | NSW | Cost of living is increasing, tax is increasing but my pay is frozen because enterprise agreement conditions can't be agreed upon. |
| 204 | Lake Heights | NSW | Hardly.....Living expenses seem to be getting higher and higher. I am unable to save up and buy a house, so am stuck renting, and my husband and I would love to have children, however are too concerned about the loss of income, so have to wait. Bills keep going up and up and wages are staying stagnant, which doesn't make sense. Why would people want to work their backsides off, for a poorer quality of life and no extra pay? The general cost of living has become noticeably more expensive in the last few years and no pay rise will really push people to the brink of financial hardship, including myself. |
| 367 | Lake Illawarra | NSW | It's getting harder to budget. We get a pay rise once a year as part of our Agreement. Our Agreement was hard fought for with great support from our Union. |
| 307 | Lavington | NSW | We recently had a very small rise, it happens maybe every 18 months, but household finances take up more and more of earnings and there is less and less to put away for retirement |
| 13 | Legume | NSW | It is very tough I get paid $200 less a week than my city counterparts and up to $400 less a week than my interstate counterparts and we all work for the same company. To stimulate the economy and help people become employed the working class need more disposable income. |
| 396 | Leichhardt | NSW | A pay cut would be devastating for myself and my family. |
| 70 | Leura | NSW | We receive the equal pay case increase in December of each year and the National Wage Case increase in July each year. |
| 285 | Lilyfield | NSW | ALL of my wife's employers underpaid her ($3-$10 per hour less than the legal minimum wage). |
| 378 | Lisarow | NSW | It has become more difficult to manage. The cost of remaining a nurse has increased - higher registration fees and the cost of continuing education also has risen. |
| 370 | Lugarno | NSW | My current pay is about 60% of what I was earning in private industry prior to my retrenchment. I supplement my lower income with a transition to retirement pension, but would prefer to cut that back if I could get additional work on the 4 days that I do work. |
| 253 | Macquarie Hills | NSW | It is hard for me to tell this as my circumstances have changed a lot in the last couple of years. My wages in my current job have not changed much in the two years I have worked there. |
| 213 | Maroubra | NSW | I live week to week as my wage increases do not cover the inflation of groceries, rent, electricity, etc. I receive a wage increase once a year. If my pay was frozen I would simply be unable to afford my rent. |
| 22 | Moama | NSW | Harder. Twice a year. I could survive so long as everyday living was frozen and things went down instead of up. |
| 443 | Moree | NSW | Yes my household finances have got harder over the years. Rural communities pay higher prices in most areas than the city. Recently the cities had a decrease in fuel prices. We did not have a decrease in our area. Rural communities pay too much for products. Too much is unfairly blamed on transport of products. EBA pay small pay rise. Every day worked I work unpaid overtime. On average I work half-an-hour extra. I pay for food and clothing and would really struggle on lower wages. |
| 250 | Mortdale | NSW | My wage is currently just enough to get by. If my wages were decreased, I would not survive. |
| 108 | Moss Vale | NSW | Over the last ten years things have gradually got harder. Our money doesn't go as far and we seem to be worker harder. Costs have gone up more than our wages and we are able to manage because we live quite frugally now. Our shopping habits have changed and we do not shop as often or for luxury goods now. We seldom go out as it is too expensive. |
| 124 | Moss Vale | NSW | For my son in hospitality work, being employed does not bring in an adequate or reliable wage for a man with a wife and 3 children in a rented home. There is no hope of earning enough in the future to buy a house. Wages for 'ordinary' workers have not kept up enough to provide 'frugal comfort'. In the construction trade where a second son, a carpenter, is sometimes employed, wages also seem to be far less than award rates; you take what you can get. A son-in-law, also a carpenter gave up the tools and joined the Police Force, on the grounds that he'd never be able to buy the houses he built. |
| 379 | Mount Annan | NSW | Harder, we have received several pay cuts and reductions in overtime as our company makes profits in the "super profit range" |
| 347 | Mount Saint Thomas | NSW | With penalty rates and working weekends, my life financially is a little easier. Six months ago I worked just day shift. As I pay child support I was really struggling to get anywhere. I willing to cope with a pay freeze if it's for the best. When I see politicians and big businesses all giving their CEOs huge pay rises, I ask myself who really should be taking a pay cut. It seems the workers of this country are treated very differently to CEOs. Let's share the heavy lifting. We have not received a pay increase in hourly rates etc for eighteen months. Our company is stalling enterprise bargaining at present. |
| 69 | Narara | NSW | No they are very little money and fortnight is very hard to get by. Expenses at school for kid’s rentals or mortgages are way too high. Living expenses are horrible in this country. Australia is country where life is very expensive compare to other countries. It is very difficult. |
| 33 | Narellan Vale | NSW | Few families can get by without overtime, it is as Australian as a Beer, a Bet and a Cigarette which was the premise this country was built on. |
| 115 | Narromine | NSW | My wage is enough to get by but nearly impossible to save anything |
| 353 | Newtown | NSW | Harder. Rarely receive pay rise. Already got pay cut and very difficult. |
| 205 | North Albury | NSW | The wage is good. The conditions are now very poor and upsetting. No one would cope with a pay cut. How about the politicians take a cut. That would help the economy. |
| 447 | North Boambee Valley | NSW | It has taken ages for Aged Care nurses to get a decent wage for the work that they do and it would be criminal to reduce the wage as it is a battle for employers to get decent staff it will only get worse and it is the residents that will suffer, the government does not seem to be showing any concern for them. A lot of staff would have to get 2nd jobs to make up the downfall. |
| 9 | North Curl Curl | NSW | All casuals like me live on the edge. A penalty or standard rate cut or an increase in or broadening of the GST would be devastating. |
| 121 | North Narrabeen | NSW | My wage is tolerable, unlike that of my more junior staff. However, I am insulted that after 3 years of University and the work I have described, not to mention aggressive patients, death and bureaucracy that I find a photocopier salesman can earn more! |
| 126 | North Nowra | NSW | Our pay rises are pitiful and don't keep up with inflation and ever increasing living costs. A pay cut or freeze is completely unfair, as we are always asked to do more with less and CEO's and management get pay increases way above ours. |
| 160 | Nowra | NSW | I'm working my butt off to support my 4 kids Everyday life School Sports Trying to save for a house deposit (that the deposit amount just keeps getting higher & higher) It's getting harder & harder. I didn't get my 2nd job back because I was only casual!!! That's put a big hole in trying to save for a house deposit. |
| 381 | Nowra Hill | NSW | Household finances have become much worse as rent becomes a larger percentage of our take home pay and groceries cost so much. Also petrol is obviously taking a larger percentage now even with personal moves to drive less. |
| 415 | Orange | NSW | I can get by without penalty rates because I have cut out all entertainment, extras in life, holidays, replacing the car, turning off the power, going to bed early to save heating etc. The carers allowance and my mother’s pension help mum and me get by. |
| 425 | Parramatta | NSW | By the end of the fortnight I have $47 left for groceries. My diet consists of bread and canned baked beans for most of the week. My extended families provide me with a hot meal every few days. |
| 274 | Port Macquarie | NSW | Yes - I am well paid and think the annual increase in wages is an unsustainable position for the local government sector. |
| 298 | Queen Victoria Building | NSW | It's been dire. |
| 190 | Randwick | NSW | We seem to have received pay rises every 18 or so months. |
| 329 | Raymond Terrace | NSW | Nurses are under payed And it's a struggle to make ends meet we have to fight hard for a pay rise and it's only given if we give something up like a trade-off for our hard work. |
| 433 | Raymond Terrace | NSW | If I don't have penalties- then my wages would drop drastically. I could not manage. |
| 365 | Rhodes | NSW | A pay cut or a pay freeze will not be adequate to meet day-to-day expenses especially with the lifestyle and economic conditions in Sydney with expensive rental and housing. |
| 390 | Romarnie | NSW | The only thing that makes my pay workable is Salary Packaging. I could not live on my wage without it. Generally seem to get a pay rise every few years. Cost of living in rural areas can be more expensive, especially for fuel. In a rural area my hourly rate is relatively ok as I live in a low socio economic area, but in the city it would be very average. People who fix computers and cars get more money than someone who looks after and nurtures human beings. |
| 153 | Ryde | NSW | Costs have risen in the last for years. Pay rises are negotiated every few years. If my pay is cut or frozen I would find it very difficult to manage. |
| 321 | Ryde | NSW | Let's not go the American way with all the attendant social problems. Look to the Nordic Countries. |
| 129 | Saumerez Ponds | NSW | My wages are professional wages and supplement a two -income household. |
| 175 | Scone | NSW | I would struggle to pay my mortgage. We receive the minimum increase (2% /annum). |
| 191 | Somerton | NSW | I have been working now for about 35 years every year is getting harder to make ends meet working 25 years ago I was bringing home 400 dollars a week and had a good life style now I bring home between 1000 to 1500 hundred a week work more hours have less time to spend with family and friends or just relax if bosses don't want to pay penalty rates than don't work them hours |
| 434 | Springfield | NSW | I try to work alternate weekends so that my pay packet is reasonable. A reduction in take home pay would affect my lifestyle and possible make me have to work more hours to make up the pay resulting in poorer health outcome for myself. |
| 435 | Springfield | NSW | Wages are good when the work is available. |
| 198 | Springwood | NSW | I am fine as my husband and I both have income and no totally dependent children. Also we are exceptionally good money managers. I receive 2 increases per year and I am able to salary sacrifice into super as I am trying to make up for the years I did not work while raising my children. A pay cut or freeze would mean I would not be able to contribute extra to super - increasing my reliance on the pension in my old age. |
| 408 | St Clair | NSW | My household finances sort of balance out with my wife also working. If her hours are reduced in anyway though we start to struggle. How can anyone be expected to survive on a pay cut. How about cutting the cost of living or giving everyone interest free loans. |
| 185 | St Marys | NSW | As we all know our living costs has rose considerably in the past 3 to 4 years due to rising costs of utilities, insurances, groceries, etc... If I had a pay cut it'll be almost impossible to cover living expenses which may result in losing my house. |
| 80 | Sydney | NSW | I am already depressed as not sure how long this work will last ...some week I work 4 days a week some weeks none. |
| 419 | Sydney | NSW | Currently my wife's and my wages are enough to "get by". I don't believe there should be a pay cut. We would be able to live with a "pay freeze", although I believe we should be paid in accordance to the GPI. |
| 340 | Tabulam | NSW | Wages are fine. |
| 130 | Tallong | NSW | If interest rates go up significantly we would struggle if I am unable to find full time employment. If I was full time my wage would be adequate but as a casual it is not. |
| 222 | Tolland | NSW | Electricity and gas bills continue to rise and customers should not be required to continually trawl thru suppliers to find the best deal only to find out they are getting ripped off for essential services. I receive a pay rise every 3 years thru our enterprise agreement and I would struggle if I had to take a pay cut or freeze because of the above statement. |
| 342 | Toorooka | NSW | My income has dropped due to cutting an hour off every shift I work. |
| 227 | Urunga | NSW | As inflation rises pay also needs to. If productivity is good for the country then so are pay rises. It makes absolute no sense that inflation occurs and pay rises don't of course house hold budgets are going to get harder. My last pay rise was below inflation, so this year we can afford less, and my educated guess is that next year we will be able to afford even lesser. |
| 332 | Vacy | NSW | With the cost of living going up and up, and the added pressure of my wife losing full time employment, it is getting harder and harder to make ends meet. My current Enterprise Agreement has annual pay rises factored in. This gives me some peace of mind, knowing that I may be able to keep pace with rising prices to some extent. If, however, I were forced to lose my penalty rates, take a pay cut or freeze then it wouldn't be long before things started to go pear shaped. |
| 337 | Vauluse | NSW | For many of my colleagues it is. |
| 333 | Verona | NSW | Only just enough to get by on. A lot relies on interest rates. |
| 264 | Wagga Wagga | NSW | If wages do not keep pace with inflation we in Australia will have deflation. |
| 325 | Warrawong | NSW | Household expenses have gone up and our wages have increased slightly only because of the pay equity campaign. But I have had to drop a day so that we have enough money to pay my wages, admin, and program costs. |
| 187 | Waterfall | NSW | At present, just enough, but it is getting harder to survive because of the raise in all the household expenses that seem to keep going up. Mostly because of the privatisation of our current utilities, gas, water, electricity (which has gone from 12.6 cents per kilowatt/hour to 24.6 cents in less than 5 years and with further privatisation, will double again) vehicle running costs, land rates, council rates etc. |
| 146 | Wattamondara | NSW | Wages haven't gone up to the price of living power goes up even though coal is at rock bottom and the petrol everything just goes up |
| 436 | Wattle Grove | NSW | Although I still am a university student, I need the money. It is not cheap to live in Sydney. It is not cheap to live anywhere. Everything costs money and time, both of which are lost when you’re a full time student who's working on her days off to make ends meet. |
| 112 | Wentworth Falls | NSW | I just manage to get by, I am living with my parents to try and save up for a deposit for a unit for my wife and myself. If I was renting there wouldn't be a chance to save. I need pay to increase at least by the CPI but everything else seems to be getting more expensive anyway. |
| 401 | Wentworthville | NSW | As a bus driver I was always happy with the rate of pay. Now I'm not able to do bus driving anymore unless risk further injury/aggravation. This is a real worry because I don't have a lot of skills where I could earn a decent take home pay. Not happy about my future prospects at all. |
| 406 | Westmead | NSW | Nurses do not get bonuses, big pay rises and currently Nurses fight to get pay rises in line with CPI and without sacrificing conditions that comprises patient care and safety and Nursing entitlements. I often do feel like Nurses are seen as caring and giving people and that these qualities are used against us. I feel like we are expected to give and give and give.... people can keep taking... and Nurses will not say anything and are shot down if Nurses do. It's not fair. Yes, we nurses are caring and giving people, but we still deserve fair pay and working conditions. Nurses shouldn't have to work for nothing because we are caring people and will do anything out of the goodness of our hearts. Nurses need to live, have families, bills and mortgages. How can we look after others if we can't look after ourselves because we are overworked, burnt-out and underpaid. People expect top care.... give us more nurses, fairer conditions and safer conditions so that care can actually be provided. |
| 323 | Whalan | NSW | It is not enough just ok for survival if nothing happening like my case, I think very soon must take my family on the street. |
| 239 | Wingham | NSW | I could not survive without Centrelink benefits due to the ups and downs of casual work. Mostly downs lately. |
| 249 | Wollongong | NSW | Satisfactory. Pay freeze has put us behind the rate of inflation. |
| 301 | Wollongong | NSW | As a home maker (and full time employee) I am impacted by the sharp increase in the cost of living. Utilities have gone through the roof, the cost of food and goods and services are bordering on being crippling. This is also impacted by the fact that there has not been a pay increase in the household for over three years yet we are still absorbing the rise in the cost of living. |
| 172 | Woodburn | NSW | My household finances vary from semester to semester, but regardless I need to put money aside to survive during semester breaks. A tafe year used to be 36 weeks, now it is 34. I am expected to live on this income for 52 weeks of the year. I don't take holidays as I cannot afford them. People think I get more holidays than most, in reality I am living frugally during the so called holidays, or I am seeking casual employment to make up for any shortfall during lean semesters. The last holiday I had was paid for by a relative. Increases in power bills, fuel to get to and from work don't help either. |
| 411 | Woodburn | NSW | Within the last few years our wage (including penalty rates and overtime) has become only just enough to pay bills. We live fortnight to fortnight without the ability to go on holiday, make savings for a rainy day or get ahead with the mortgage. We spread the payment of bills over pay days to make it easier to manage but live with the constant dread of having anything go wrong with the car, or house or needing to replace household items. |
| 60 | Woy Woy | NSW | My wages are enough, I am not greedy, I want for little, I do my work, pay my taxes, do good for the community, am a decent law abiding citizen. Pay cuts? Freeze? Hell… I am being made redundant! |
| 19 | Bayview | NT | Living costs in the NT have gone through the roof. For example in the last power bill mine had jumped from $800 to $1600 a quarter but no increase in wage. Same for just about every utility bill over the last few months. |
| 39 | Casuarina | NT | Wages satisfactory, it is important that wages are not further reduced though (several years ago a re-evaluation of positions led effectively to significant pay cuts for the same work.) |
| 202 | Nhulunbuy | NT | I live in a small town in the remote Northern Territory where everything is brought in by barge. It is a mining town and other people in town have an income that is twice or three times what I earn. Prices are high and I haven't had a pay rise since July 2013. A cut of 30% to my income would make living here untenable, which would make my remaining in my job untenable. I will have to go back to the city and try to find employment there and because of my age I don't like the chances of that. |
| 336 | Tiwi | NT | It would be good to get better pay |
| 412 | Acacia Ridge | QLD | Very poorly as this job is not the highest paying job around |
| 377 | Albany Creek | QLD | Cost of living is beyond a joke, It seems the lower middle class is picking up the slack for the rest of the country. Deregulation has pushed electricity, water and rates bills through the roof as well as fuel bills. Poor people apparently don't drive but how do we get to work when poor public transport. |
| 328 | Alliingham | QLD | As we all know the cost of living has sky rocketed over the last 5 yrs (electricity, petrol all insurances and rego) nothing will be getting cheaper, without regular pay rises and overtime as a family it’s impossible to get by. |
| 193 | Annerley | QLD | once a year to try to keep up with inflation - they say inflation is low but still prices go up and things cost more - so a pay cut would be catastrophic as then there would not be enough money to pay the bills and support my four children. |
| 186 | Ashgrove | QLD | Once upon a time I thought that I and my partner made a good living. We are both tertiary qualified professionals. I have a 8yr old son who has some residual health issues arising from a life and death experience during his birth - we were told he may not survive once life-support was turned-off. Our family is struggling to make ends meet. The special school my son attends, the cost of psychometric and visual testing not to mention paediatricians, and medications. We had to sell our house because we could no longer pay our mortgage (especially during the Comcare case - no work). And it looks set to get worse. The current negotiations with my employer are unequivocally designed to serve government and likely corporate lobbying, in an effort to reduce costs (to government/companies) shoring-up profits, but making little consideration for the people actually performing the work. I want a more equitable arrangement, maybe even something like profit sharing - a bridge too far perhaps, but at least CPI and some consideration for growing productivity as I mature in my role. The effect of this bullying only serves to demoralise and weaken any commitment I may have to my work and my employer - if you treat me with little or no dignity, then I have very little to offer in return. We all lose. |
| 318 | Ashgrove | QLD | The wage rises we have been obtaining through the enterprise bargaining agreements are not sufficient to maintain current living standards. At present they barely keep up with inflation or the consumer price index. |
| 18 | Ashmore | QLD | Harder since ALP blew our money! We were in good shape. |
| 8 | Balmoral Ridge | QLD | I cannot afford a rental that allows me to have a bedroom for my son on my single wage. My son sleeps in the lounge room. it has become his room and I sleep in a separate room. 1 bedroom with living and kitchen abode. |
| 12 | Bargara | QLD | Certainly wouldn't cope with a pay cut... may manage with a pay freeze if all other costs where frozen too! |
| 395 | Boondall | QLD | With increasing costs I am always looking for extra work to increase our income. It is difficult as I already work more than a full time position, so am limited in what extra I can do. |
| 181 | Brackenridge | QLD | Household finances are increasingly more difficult over years, particularly when government postpones agreements on wage reviews and wages become fixed at lower than CPI. Pay rises are only received after EB sign off....this has been an issue with the prev. state government in Qld… so yes is has a bearing on families’ finances...we won’t be spending. |
| 113 | Bray Park | QLD | My partner's pay has increased 1.5% a year for the last three years. So technically he's paid less each year as CPI is around 3%. So pay is already cut and it hurts our household. The CEO of Australia Post's pay has risen over this period by $2million to $4.8million of tax payers' money. |
| 383 | Brighton | QLD | I am lucky that with my salary and my husband's shift work, that our wages are able to support our family expenses. We are seeing the impact of the rising cost of living and are having to manage our lifestyle choices to accommodate this. |
| 25 | Brisbane | QLD | Only union EBA jobs have pay rises, all other jobs have remained the same rate for the last few years with allowances such as travel and stand down coming off night shift being removed, so in real terms we are going backwards |
| 420 | Brisbane | QLD | NO I would not cope paying our bills. |
| 356 | Browns Plains | QLD | With mortgages, bills to pay, utilities, basic necessities considered, I have relatives in foreign countries have better situation because of cheaper things to buy in their country. I am struggling to live buy in this supposed to be a better country. |
| 445 | Bundaberg | QLD | Over the last 15 or so years I've seen the wage differential between my wage and that of teachers/principals increasing significantly. If wage parity had been maintained, I'd be earning about $40,000 per annum more than at present. Also consider the recent increases in parliamentarian salaries ... 3 x 3% plus an additional 20% and recently a recommendation for a further 2+% increase. My last pay rise was 'forced' by the Industrial Relations Commission and paid in December 2014 ... 2%. This is the first pay increase since the Newman government came to power. My bills come to about $555 per fortnight without the electricity bill, health insurance or mortgage! Without the pay increases and with increasing basic utility costs, it has become much more difficult to make ends meet. |
| 397 | Burleigh | QLD | Our Base wages are fairly standard compared to Electrical workers. We sacrifice home time to increase the wage, but the focus is on Keeping the Community's power On and restore supply in time of need. An increase in wage is required to keep with the CPI. |
| 427 | Burpengary | QLD | Pay rises have not kept up with inflation. I remember Quarterly CPI increases now we are lucky to get annual increases below the CPI level. A return to a Centralised Wage system is essential. Wage increases should be alternately dollar amounts followed by percentage increases. The same increase should apply to all workers tradesmen, Garbo's, clerks doctors and MP's. Arbitration Commission should have complete control over wages of all employees and all self-employed contractors. IF a contractor gets less than the Award he should be paid the Award. |
| 61 | Capalaba | QLD | My standard of living as been made harder to cope with because my employer just keeps pay rises to the lowest level they can get and threaten the employees with. A pay rise that acknowledges the changes we have had to go through and implement would be a boost to moral. I receive a pay rise each year as per our EBA but not enough to allow for extra expenditure of luxuries. |
| 84 | Carina | QLD | wages rises must be in line with CPI |
| 272 | Carina Heights | QLD | Yes, my salary is enough to get by, but not getting any increases in line with inflation will mean I need to find another income or cut essential items I use/need to just live in this country. Seriously, is this the way life in Australia is going to be? What is the real reason for the pay freeze? Be honest with the Australian public! I'd suggest looking for efficiencies first - there’s so many ways to save money with the way things are done in the government now - without having to cut budgets - there is way too much excess and incompetence existing that could be cleaned up - then review just where the economy is at with regard to income and expenditure. Ask the Australian public to suggest ways to cuts costs - you'd get so many valid and sound suggestions, it would take 50 years to implement them all! |
| 125 | Carrara | QLD | Things get tighter and tighter. I used to as I work on the road buy a drink or a sandwich daily. However now most days I spend zero and bring it from home. We used to shop at the farmers market weekly to support local farmers -that has stopped. Entertainment or dining out no longer happens. Clothes are purchased off the internet from overseas to save money. If I did not get an annual pay rise I would have to seriously consider leaving this country. $750 to $850 per week after tax is not enough with today’s housing costs and utility costs in particular. |
| 277 | Carrara | QLD | Household finances have been particularly harder since about 2007 and when the govt deregulated the electricity industry. Cost of living expenses have skyrocketed out of control and a single person and especially a single parent household simply finds it a struggle to live week to week. |
| 220 | Coombabah | QLD | In my last job my boss would not hear of it ... no pay rise for a more than 2 years, yet workload more than doubled, took on extra responsibilities such as managing staff and training, my role was not reviewed ... plus was expected to work longer hours. In the mean time my rent went up, as did utilities, insurance etc life became a real struggle. Could not even afford to go out for a meal or a movie. Struggled to pay bills. |
| 194 | Cornubia | QLD | My household finances have got harder in the last few years. I have not received a pay rise for a couple of years. It is harder to cope as the virtual wage freeze I am experiencing continues. |
| 339 | Cornuiba | QLD | Harder to cope, a pay freeze would kill me. |
| 54 | Crows Nest | QLD | The cost of living is rising. Perth is the 13th most expensive place in the world to live. Most families would not cope if pay cuts were implemented. |
| 384 | Currmbin Valley | QLD | To put it in dollar terms, 10 yrs ago I was earning over 50,000$ today (last year) I earned 25,000$ and penalties comprised part of this. |
| 11 | Daisy Hill | QLD | Of course not. 35$ x 6.5 hours per week? |
| 4 | Eight Mile Plains | QLD | Currently our pay offer works out to a pay reduction therefore we spend less which means less for businesses. |
| 46 | Eumundi | QLD | Just breaking even with wife doing small amount of work. Does not seem reasonable for a world expert to be just scratching through. |
| 157 | Forest Lake | QLD | Definitely my household finances got harder in the last few years. |
| 145 | Gracemere | QLD | It is hard to get by to get to work as in buying a work car, accommodation which you got to pay yourself and food for duration of shift. |
| 266 | Herston | QLD | We are definitely starting to fall behind CPI. Wage outcomes have been poorer in recent agreements and I think that is reflected in national economic data. The problem for workers and salary earners is that non-discretionary costs are increasing faster than CPI - housing, transport, health and education. Wage and salary earners are losing out. |
| 154 | Highgate Hill | QLD | It's getting harder to budget. We get a pay rise once a year as part of our Agreement. Our Agreement was hard fought for with great support from our Union. |
| 26 | Holland Park | QLD | $80 per week in a spending environment that is one step short of utterly rooted. Tote that barge. |
| 149 | Holloways Beach | QLD | Pay cut for nurses unacceptable. Pay rise is only accepted. |
| 423 | Inala | QLD | If you don’t know the answer to this you don’t deserve to be on the commission bench. |
| 228 | Indooroopilly | QLD | What can be fairer than a standard rate of pay and penalty rates when extra hours or unsociable hours are required to get the job done. Many workers have unsociable hours as par for the course (doctors, nurses, police, ambos, garbos and firies etc). Their rates of pay include penalty rates as standard. They have commitments for their salaries. They might not have elected to those professions without those pay rates. |
| 359 | Ingham | QLD | I could not survive if I received a pay cut, I on average get a small pay rise every 3 years. |
| 376 | Innisfail | QLD | I was in the work force for 44 years and there's no way wages have kept up with the cost of living. |
| 247 | Kalynda Chase | QLD | We receive a small pay rise every year but it is not enough to meet the CPI. It is definitely getting harder to make ends meet as prices in every area are continually increasing. It would be devastating if I received a pay cut or freeze, it would mean I would have to do a total review of my finances and possibly cut out on some essential things. |
| 27 | Kawana | QLD | Never cope if I got a cut. More crimson come from the lower income ... obvious reason? |
| 410 | Kelso | QLD | Statistics from the taxation office will reveal a lack of income from the workers wages in relation to growth of business When companies close their operations and move off shore, there is a corresponding loss of income tax revenue to the government. This has placed a demand on jobs and employment that affects the incomes of families as the workers now have to accept lower wages to service mortgage repayment, meet education and health costs. Companies that affect a freeze on workers incomes are in effect freezing their own profitability as the workers have less money to spend on consumable items Pensioners are the worst hit as with lower income returns, there is less money to pay the ageing population an pensions equitable to the cost of living |
| 418 | Kelso | QLD | I have noticed a steady rise in the cost of our household bills - electricity in particular. A pay cut would definitely be hard to manage and a pay freeze will definitely slow our retirement plan down. We have a 20 year old daughter with some personal challenges who we will be financially responsible for well into the future, so it is not just us we need to provide for but another adult as well. |
| 262 | Keperra | QLD | My household finances have actually gotten easier in the last few years. I've gotten more hours so I'm earning more money. If I received a pay cut, I would not cope well mentally because I work hard and if everything else is getting more expensive, then so should my labour. The best thing about being paid well is being able to go out and spend money without worrying about rent and bills. This is also good for the economy. |
| 394 | Leichhardt | QLD | Yes household finance is ridiculously high. My water bill is $600 every 3 months. My power bill is $1000 every 3 months not to mentions Gas and Phone and Internet. Food is about $400 a f/n plus $100 extra for milk or medications. We would sink financially and would have to sell out home which apparently is worth less now then what we paid for it 4 years ago now so we will have more debt to contend with. Can you imagine the stress this will place on a marriage, a family and persons self confidence, the children? We just wouldn't cope, we would have to rely on Centrelink and isn't that kinda redundant? |
| 200 | Malanda | QLD | It's hard. You do the math. Rent 780 f/n earning 1200 f/n after tax the utilities bill often goes unpaid there are always threats to be cut off. When we get a wage rise it's so little I don't even notice it. We never go on holidays. Life is dismal and if it weren't for my kids love I'd have necked myself years ago. |
| 215 | Maryborough | QLD | I have not received a pay rise for about 2 years. Our EB has been in a stalemate position for this time. I am a good manager of my money and spend it frugally. However, the general cost of living and those unexpected bills such as car repairs and children's expenses often leave us with precious little at the end of the pay week. A pay cut would result in austerity measures. |
| 169 | Mcdowall | QLD | Much harder. We are under severe stress. It could not get any harder. |
| 373 | Mcdowall | QLD | Pay rises are a battleground with the Union and Employer - the Employer always wins! If a pay cut occurred or a pay freeze, I would have to work elsewhere, access my little super and/or struggle on a pension as most elderly people do. |
| 21 | Moranbah | QLD | Our finances have got harder for sure as with part time or casual work I still need to make payments on debts I had prior to being made redundant. I also am unable to refinance or apply for other debt due to my work instability. Of most note is our credit card debt is rising and continues to do so. |
| 218 | Mt Gravatt East | QLD | Currently she is sharing a unit with friends but buy the time she pays rent food electricity running her car she doesn't have to much more left, our children were bought up to save hard but with wages today the cost of things it has become impossible How are kids going to save for a family home deposit if everything gets sucked up in everyday living. |
| 189 | Mudgeeraba | QLD | We are only just getting by. A pay cut or pay freeze would mean we couldn't pay the bills. We don't drink or go out on the town. The money we earn is for everyday existence. |
| 388 | North Cairns | QLD | Constantly prices go up wages crawl alongside them either reduce the burden by reducing taxes or we will have to have increases in wages. I watch foreign companies come to Australia and take billion dollar contracts and take the money and the tax offshore with them. |
| 234 | Oakenden | QLD | Wages in the Industry used to keep up with the CPI. But over the last 10 years I have noticed that it is now falling behind. The influx of Contract Employment has without a doubt cut wages and conditions throughout the industry. We now have Recruitment Companies negotiating with the Mining Companies and cutting Wages and Conditions in order to secure there Contract with the Mining Companies. We as the workers are now forced to find Employment through these Recruitment Companies because the Mining Companies do not hire directly but would rather use Contract Employment Companies because it cost them less and hence can post bigger Profits. We are already suffering from this situation, I cannot imagine the implication of further Wage Cuts or Wage Freezing. |
| 58 | Oxley | QLD | My wage is barely enough to get by on - and I earn a decent income (approx. $70,000). As a single person who pays rent, I find myself living fortnight to fortnight. More than half of my income goes to rent (I live by myself due to medical conditions) and I do not regularly buy clothes, go out, eat out, travel or splash money around. I actually end up just getting by, with very little savings, because I financially assist my mother, 11 year old brother and 25 year old brother (who works part-time/casual) on a very regular basis because they struggle to get by. Sometimes, my mother gets only $100 a week to live on. She is a disability pensioner and single mother with multiple chronic diseases and one terminal illness. She receives minimal child support from her ex. My 25 year old brother barely earns enough to pay rent and buy food. My family are all living together in one property to get by: my mother, my 2 brothers, my uncle, my aunt, my cousin, my brother's friend and my mother's friend all live in the one property (my other uncle's property) because they cannot afford to rent elsewhere. I often give my mother $100-$300 a fortnight to help her get by - she tries to pay me back, but has been trying for the past 4 years to pay me back, and the pay back loan just keeps on increasing. I will regularly wipe this loan amount for her, and then the process starts all over again. While my financial position has improved over the past few years due to job opportunities I have been fortunate enough to receive, I am struggling to save any money and I have not been able to save enough for even the most basic holiday in over 10 years of working full-time hours. A pay decrease or pay freeze would be a terrible impact on my financial situation. I hope to own my own home one day, but I am very apathetic about this opportunity (at the age of 27), even though I have a good job, a good education, and I am smart and articulate and employable, simply because the cost of living is excessive and the cost of a mortgage is unattainable for me. |
| 268 | Portsmith | QLD | My wage is OK, not up there with SES of course, which is why their obscene payments don't that they are ideologically driven, not driven by efficiency or cost awareness. Make financial sense. They cut positions without thought for the consequences and it seems |
| 292 | Redland Bay | QLD | Bills have outstripped any wage increase. Interest rates are so low that savings are being eroded to pay the bills. |
| 405 | Redland Bay | QLD | I am the income earner /2 family members. I have cut back on various things to take care of eroding income against rising costs. |
| 441 | Rochedale South | QLD | Cutting people’s wages or even freezing them is uneconomic and socially unacceptable. Services costs are never cut only increased, so hardship and resentment are the results. Incentives don't necessarily mean a pay increase but could be a way of increasing job satisfaction. For example, a company setting up an education bursary for workers children; allowing time off with pay for training or further education for staff; special holiday packages and retirement packages. These incentives could be used in lieu of pay rises. |
| 330 | Sadliers Crossing | QLD | I have had steady but low pay increases under the last few EB agreements. This has allowed us to keep up with cost of living adjustments. |
| 389 | Sandgate | QLD | As a tax officer, it wasn't bad. Back then, I went from the dole ($99/fortnight) to paid wages of $99/week. Now, as a pensioner, if I didn't have a supportive family I worry I'd end up on the street. The disability pension just isn't enough. And no stuffed-shirt rich pollie who's never had to try it has any damned idea. |
| 103 | Springwood | QLD | My household finance have gotten much more difficult in the last few years. As a highly skilled and experienced Admin Officer / PA, I am prepared to work in temp roles for the basic admin wage rate which for me is approx. $35 per hour less than I was earning 6 years ago. I have been made redundant 3 times in 6 years due to my employers closing their doors in Brisbane. Even so, there have been very few positions available over the last year and although I am registered with most employment agencies and go through every single job advertised on SEEK, I have only had 8 days work in the past 3 months. At this stage, if I didn't get a Centrelink top-up, we would not survive. Imposing a pay cut or pay freeze on the minimum wage would be counterproductive because Centrelink would just need to top-up more. |
| 263 | Stafford | QLD | With the hours that I get I would be forced to seek other employment or training which I can't afford at all. I'm only now starting to rebuild my life. All I have to my name is a bunch of cd's and a Bass Guitar. That's it. Everything else I have is from charity. |
| 163 | Stretton | QLD | I refer to the architect’s award. Household finances have become increasingly harder. Day to day living is more expensive than ever in Australia, which leaves with less and less money to save for emergency situations, which unfortunately results in increased debt (credit cards, personal loans) and extra stress. I do not get a pay rise often enough, and at my age, with the financial obligations I have, and the cost of living, the minimum award wage and pay rate for someone in my field is not enough. Especially after having completed a degree, I feel the rate of pay for a graduate should increase, as the costs of living continue to increase. Wages and pay rates should be increased to reflect the cost of living, and in particular your age; because your age generally dictates the financial obligations you have. |
| 76 | Sunnybank Hills | QLD | My wage is nowhere near enough to get by. I earn about $150 per week which understandably is extremely hard to get by on. Most of my wage is penalty rates. |
| 351 | Sunshine Beach | QLD | Our standard of living has always been pretty frugal we don't have holidays we rarely go out Most of our purchases as second hand we grow vegetables and source the cheapest in season Australian food. Now we don't use any heating in the winter don't have air conditioning we all live together ass rent is so expensive and we are looking at moving further out as the rents continue to rise. |
| 400 | Tewantin | QLD | The cost of living has increased considerably during the past 5 years. To receive a pay cut or freeze would make it very difficult to continue supporting the needs of my family. |
| 156 | Tin Can Bay | QLD | With being unemployed and having a growing debt, once employed it would take much longer to balance debt. |
| 417 | Townsville | QLD | It is but there are no extras like holidays and if there is it is usually a credit card to be paid back. There are just too many costs these days. l do not live above my means either. |
| 252 | Urangan | QLD | Household finances are at an all time low... Power water and rates are killing us. |
| 88 | Wakerley | QLD | Again let’s be clear here the only time things get hard and unfair are when the LNP are in charge. 1% increase for federal public sector service employees says it all. Flow on effect loss of consumer confidence. |
| 348 | Warwick | QLD | My workplace location is the second lowest paid in the chain I work for, for Warehouse worker ($45.000per yr). Any pay raise don't deal with the pay gap between other warehouses, all the past EBA we have to give up more conditions and it is the new or casual workers who take cuts. The pay different between the warehouse in Brisbane is $10,000 per year. My employer used the cheap cost of living in Warwick as a reason for our low rate of pay, which is far from the truth we pay the same for food, electricity, and more for local council rates. However other industry don't cut employee wage just because they work in regional area. It have been hard for my family to get by one income need help from Family Tax Benefit A & B each year. My employer is asking the Australian Taxpayer to subsidize the income of all full time permanent workers on a single income. Our low wages affect my family and the Warwick community as well. |
| 256 | Withcott | QLD | The agreed amount in enterprise bargaining is always cut down in the wages but never seems to be cut down with taxes the government puts on petrol etc. The price of insurance has risen greatly and all commodities seem to go up but wages do not reflect this as they always try to negotiate small percentages for workers, however what was the percentage for politicians???? Much higher than an average worker! I thought we put them there to work for us!! |
| 36 | Wollongabba | QLD | Public service wages are stagnating. I am proud of the talented co-workers who I see working because the work is important more than because their pay is fair. |
| 248 | Wolvi | QLD | No - we are paid very badly in Qld - barely above the minimum wage and are struggling already. CPI pay rises only and a wage freeze would cripple us due to rising costs - we don't make enough money now to save and will never own our own home even though we are in our forties |
| 357 | Wyreema | QLD | If I received a pay cut it would affect my ability to pay bills. Over the last few years everything has gone up in price and wages have not always kept up with inflation. |
| 361 | Yeerongpilly | QLD | Over the past few years household finances have become much harder. I no longer do shift work, so no longer get penalty rates. The pay increases associated with Enterprise Bargaining Agreements have diminished as living costs have risen. My husband has become unemployed, and at 64 is unlikely to ever be employed again. A pay cut or freeze at a time when we are struggling to try to accumulate some retirement savings would see us very poorly off when I am no longer able to work at all. This may be well before official retirement age as I have several health issues that impact on my ability to work. Some of these issues have been created by my work. The costs associated with medications and health care have taken a very high toll on us, and those costs will only increase as we age. |
| 242 | Encounter Bay | SA | Pay rises happen with cost of living adjustments. |
| 49 | Enfield | SA | The cost of living goes up and up if there was a pay freeze it would be harder to get by. A pay cut would be disastrous. |
| 38 | Hawthorn | SA | I don't understand how I see a Qantas boss get paid 16% increase for 12 months but their staff a miniscule amount. Or a public service boss an extra 100k for the year, or 14% for 12 months whilst their staff are being offered 1.7%. My wages see me scrape by each week. I live week to week but it's very disingenuous to continue pay for the have nots being vastly different to the haves. |
| 315 | Huntfield Heights | SA | Finances definitely harder with the steep increases in utilities & general cost of living. Pay freeze would probably result in putting us in the group of people who have utilities cut off due to not being able to meet the cost. If you want to keep wages down you need stop the corporate greed which is choking the life out of both the economy & the ordinary Aussie household. |
| 414 | Macclesfield | SA | If penalty rates were cut I would have to negotiate with my loan provider a lower repayment on my mortgage. It would be difficult to cover everyday living especially with the rising cost of utilities and taxes that are burdening our lives. |
| 273 | Modbury Heights | SA | Finances have gotten steadily worse lately. My pay has been frozen for three years, so CPI has cut my effective pay by about 10%. The stress of getting by on less, as prices steadily rise, is a major issue. |
| 209 | Morphett Vale | SA | Since the cost of living has risen and the price of utilities and necessities have also risen, the wages balance has fallen behind. I understand that people are in business to make money and profit but at what cost? The people of this country aren’t wanting massive wage increases but just an increase to be able to live, to purchase homes, cars, education, food, pay bills and still have enough money to be able to buy something nice which in turn keeps the economy moving. At this stage and if the government removes penalty rates in the future, this country will fall as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. No one will work for less than they already get because what they get is not enough now! |
| 166 | Newton | SA | No, at present, I am the only income earner in the household and my income falls into the category, seen by Centrelink as a low income earner (some $20,000 per annum). We are well below the poverty line. |
| 30 | Oakden | SA | My household finances have become incredibly harder - costs of living increases have by far outstripped most peoples' earning increases. |
| 449 | Port Pirie | SA | We generally receive a pay rise every 3 years but even with these increases my budget does not stretch to what it used to 10 years ago. |
| 83 | Sailsbury Park | SA | Only just |
| 267 | West Richmond | SA | At present my husband and I earn enough to pay our mortgage and bills and help out our middle aged children from time to time. Household finances have definitely become harder to meet in the past few years and Government charges and utility costs have significantly contributed to this. I believe single parents and families with children would be severely disadvantaged if they were to receive a pay cut or pay freeze. |
| 324 | Crabtree | TAS | I laugh at what politicians think the average wage is. They need to get out into the country towns and suburbs. At my aged care facility most would be on $30 grand. Then you have management that are on lots more which when averaged out makes the wage look better but in reality it's very basic. The gap between high income and low income is increasing. |
| 107 | Goodwood | TAS | Once again think about it every day something else goes up groceries petrol hydro etc you never get ahead and they say save for your retirement HAR HAR and where does that $ come from out of fresh air! No it’s not enough to survive on AND forget a cut or freeze! |
| 362 | Kingston | TAS | I, like most workers, have a mortgage and a pay freeze or lack of penalty rates would affect me badly. Without the aid of a union, such as the ANF, I think workers would be at a disadvantage trying to obtain wage rises and fair conditions. |
| 312 | Launceston | TAS | My wages were something that I learnt that I could develop the ability to negotiate because of my level of commitment and work ethic. Regardless of the fact that wages could be negotiated up, I also learnt that without this power to negotiate I would have never been able to keep just ahead of the balancing the budget circumstance. A pay freeze is an insane idea considering that the cost of living rises every month or so, as the charges for services and commodities rise all the time. Utilities, services, essentials and fees rise constantly and these are being encouraged and facilitated by our Governments as well. |
| 7 | Lindisfarne | TAS | I struggle every day financially. |
| 258 | Pelverata | TAS | There is not much scope for advancement or pay rises and not much extra money for anything other than essential items and bills. |
| 311 |  | TAS | Wage increases occur annually as part of our Award. Costs for power fuel etc have risen. |
| 179 | Primrose Sands | TAS | My household finances have become harder over the last few years.my take home wages went down because of a tax increase thanks to the Abbott government taking an extra $28 a pay, does not sound a lot but when you count every cent that comes in the door it hurts. I would not cope well with a pay cut or freeze, as it is I have made cuts to my lifestyle to the point I just don't go out I can’t afford to go out. |
| 132 | Trevallyn | TAS | Harder as my husband does not work and my son is only able to get very few hours casual work. Pay cut or freeze?-My superannuation would be affected and day to day living and mortgage repayments would be a challenge. |
| 42 | Warrane | TAS | I'm the working poor - it isn't easy to manage on a single income household and a pay cut would decimate my family |
| 102 |  | VIC | My two wages are just enough to get by, admittedly we are trying to start a business so it is our choice. But I am working 6 to 7 days per week, mostly afternoons and evenings. It is not sustainable. We only have one car and rent a two bedroom unit. We don't drink, smoke or do drugs, our money is going towards starting a business which will ultimately benefit the government as much as it will us. If they make it harder on ordinary people, they will only be making it harder on themselves and their precious surplus. |
| 232 | Albert Park | VIC | Wages haven't kept up with increase in cost of living, wages are more and more linked to unfair targets, Bonus are linked to unit results an error can be made and all staff in the unit lose their bonuses, a game. |
| 316 | Ararat | VIC | My pay rises have been borderline or just below CPI since the GFC. But my utilities and rates have skyrocketed. I would cope without a pay rise but only because my kids have left home. Maybe downsize our house. I already drive a 12 year old car. |
| 304 | Bairnsdale | VIC | TAFE are definitely the poor cousins to University workers and it is about time we were acknowledged for our similar work. I have yearly pay rises however I will reach the threshold soon and it will stop. If my pay was cut or frozen it would have serious consequences for my standard of living and for my family. |
| 56 | Ballarat | VIC | Over the past 9 years I have received a pay rise each year but I will shortly reach the top of my pay scale and as such my income will stagnate. With raising cost of living this will increase the stress on our household budget. |
| 59 | Balwyn North | VIC | I am finding it harder and harder to pay household bills. These is just to cover utilities and not to cover emergency medical bills. My pay isn't even keeping up with inflation. |
| 208 | Bayswater North | VIC | Almost fifteen years ago I was earning $60k pa. I am now earning less than $43k pa. While it is true I no longer have any family to support, I also no longer have a $760 per month mortgage, but $700 per fortnight rent payment. In the five years I have been working in my current position, my pay has gone up by about ten percent, but my bills have more than doubled, and then I have added to that by buying a car, under finance. I survive, but I have little to survive on. |
| 20 | Box Hill North | VIC | The low paid workers and full time carers should be better paid to improve standards of living. |
| 170 | Box Hill North | VIC | We barely break even on my salary. I just got a pay rise which was over 3 years coming and we got some back pay, which we could put into savings. |
| 291 | Box Hill South | VIC | It doesn't matter to me. I have lived on minimum most of my life. I make do with what I have. I can live on friend’s lounges if I have too or in my car. This is why credit cards are good too. When things get a bit too hard I just rack up more debt. |
| 63 | Braybrook | VIC | Not enough, and it could even be worth if any more change happen again. |
| 110 | Burwood | VIC | Finances have got harder owing to living expenses not keeping in sync with pay rates. |
| 192 | Camberwell | VIC | My pay and conditions are good. I am not totally against pay cuts or freezes if they apply to everyone who can afford them. That is a massive if because pay cuts and freezes are simply and only designed to pay for some bludgers new yacht. |
| 338 | Carnegie | VIC | Household finances have become more difficult to manage year upon year as the opportunities for additional income have eroded while household costs have increased exorbitantly. Pay rise levels have eroded also and are essentially cuts as cost increases outweigh the gains in annual income. Further cost increases together with a pay "freeze" would severely erode the quality of life for myself and my family. |
| 148 | Castlemaine | VIC | My household finances have not changed much in terms of being harder or easier. In the past few years 2 of my children have left home so our household budget does not have to stretch as far. However, I often have to help out my adult children financially, especially my son who is an apprentice chef. He has been adversely affected by cuts to financial support for apprentices which happened last year. He relied on some of the grants that used to be supplied for tools of the trade for the purchase of knives, aprons, hats, work shoes, chef's pants etc. Also, due to cuts to TAFE, his TAFE fees have increased from around $400 per year to over a thousand dollars. As a second year chef's apprentice, my son earns $12.50 per hour! (Up from $10.00 per hour first year). He is 21 years old. He has to work at least 50 hours per week to pay his rent and support himself financially. His last lot of holiday pay was spent on this year’s TAFE fees, so he could not afford to take a holiday or he would not have been able to pay his rent. Consequently I often have to help him out financially with bills. My other son is an actor who is finding it hard to get work in his profession of choice. He has been employed intermittently, and on Centrelink some of the time. He has a young child to support. He has had times when he has not had enough money for food or rent or to put fuel in the car, so I have had to help him out with this. I have received one pay rise in the last 12 months. My family just gets by on our income, a pay freeze or pay cut would mean we would not be able to afford basics such as food, fuel, power bills etc. |
| 28 | Cheltenham | VIC | Pay for me is ok because I’m near retirement, however others would not cope if frozen or reduced. I was on the economic bargaining committee the manager played very hard line with too much from management view with no real attempt for give and take. It was the most stressful negotiation in recent years. Managers can sometimes have a two way approach as in the past this one did not. |
| 245 | Clifton Springs | VIC | I have three children under 13 years old, and we are only just able to make ends meet on our current income. (I currently earn $27 per hour) |
| 327 | Coburg | VIC | My budget has gotten much harder in the last few years dues to losing my job. I can live quite cheaply, but I am unable to save toward anything, go anywhere, buy anything other than essentials, and the weekly budgeting is stressful. |
| 101 | Coburg North | VIC | As my partner also does not have a permanent job and having a young family, we cope but all the amenities have increased, I should receive a pay rise every year as I have only started this job and went in at the minimum so again the penalty rates have helped out a lot. We would not cope at all with a pay cut or pay freeze, we would need Centrelink assistance. |
| 386 | Coolaroo | VIC | I don't feel my current wage matches the escalating costs of running a household and find that more frequently I may cuts to my expenditure to meet basis needs. If I was to receive a pay cut or a pay freeze basically I would be disadvantaged as I don't feel there are any more areas in my budget I could cut. Talking to family, friends and colleagues I have gained the perception that in most case they are in the same situation. |
| 62 | Croydon | VIC | Centrelink welfare is NOT enough, no money for food, utilities, diesel or even paying the rates! |
| 360 | Croydon | VIC | Although I work full-time I am on a low income. I have two children; one is 17 and the other 11. I find it very difficult to meet the demands of our household budget and make my wages last the full fortnight. I am constantly trying to save but it is rare I can. |
| 128 | Elwood | VIC | Some weeks I spend more than I earn and dip into my tax refund savings. My wage is frozen and not likely to rise. |
| 246 | Elwood | VIC | A teacher's income compared to the national average is much lower than it was a generation ago. This is another reason that I am considering leaving the profession: if I want to raise a family and buy a property, I will struggle to do so on my current salary. |
| 251 | Elwood | VIC | I am lucky to have a partner with a high income. If I didn't, my wage would not be enough to cover my food, utilities and rent bills. |
| 409 | Epsom | VIC | Any changes to my income in a negative way would cause more stress as I am a single woman on a low income. |
| 221 | Fairfield | VIC | My award has not had an increase since December 2012. I am at the top of my pay bracket and there is no scope for internal movement to an AO5 bracket in my current role and no internal AO5 positions have been advertised in the 18 months I have worked at my place of employment. I earn a full time salary of $45,000. I can, on this, afford (given that "affordable rent" is 1/3 of take home pay) rent on a $250/week one bedroom unit and my bills. A rent increase or a pay cut would make it difficult to meet my weekly expenses. |
| 77 | Ferntree Gully | VIC | Like I said our site is the second lowest paid site in Australia, my wife is on minimum wage and I have 2 boys in high school. The sole purpose for me doing weekend school is to get a better paying job... Without penalty rates I would not be able to make ends meet. We do get an annual pay rise, but unfortunately the cost of living seems to go up annually too. |
| 105 | Footscray | VIC | Yes. A pay cut or freeze would be damaging. |
| 158 | Frankston North | VIC | Household finances have got harder in the last few years. If I was to receive a pay cut I wouldn't be able to survive. |
| 216 | Frankston South | VIC | Clearly, especially the cost of household utilities and food, have eroded household finances. Our salaries have only received major increases 4 times in my 37 years of teaching, which has meant that our real income has declined. I am obliged to have a second job to enable us to enjoy a decent lifestyle. |
| 217 | Frankston South | VIC | My wage is not enough to get by. Luckily my wife works also otherwise we could not survive on just my wage. If we receive a pay cut or pay freeze we would really struggle. |
| 114 | Gladstone Park | VIC | My finances did get harder, pay rise was lost in CPI. Any pay freeze will force me to consider selling my house. |
| 94 | Glen Iris | VIC | I received a pay rise in my company after working there for 2 years. The wages increased from $19 to $23 per hour and the difference it made to my health and well-being was huge. I would not cope if I received a pay cut. I am a student not living with my family or receiving any outside help- other than Centrelink occasionally. I'd be in arrears with my landlord as I am not qualified to be earning a lot of money on the side hence I don't have much savings if at all at times. |
| 93 | Gowanbrae | VIC | Every time I go shopping the prices have gone up or the items have reduced in volume or size requiring multiple purchases. Power, gas and water prices have gone up over 100% in the last 5 years and now you are considering a pay freeze or cut? Are you people on the same planet as the rest of us? |
| 334 | Great Western | VIC | I have received annual pay rises all of my working life but everything does not rise with inflation some things increase drastically. eg council rates, power, water and gas. |
| 133 | Greensborough | VIC | At the moment just getting by. |
| 438 | Grovedale | VIC | At my stage of life my wage is sufficient to pay the bills. It is not sufficient for me to be able to save enough for retirement that I am desperately looking forward to given the working environment. I feel very angry at the discussions that are occurring about Superannuation. There is a sense of hopelessness that comes about form politicians talking about what they may do with my retirement planning. I have spent my whole working life (40 years) believing I would retire at age 65 and enjoy retirement comfortably. I thought that was my right as an Australian citizen. Seeing the piranhas in the media and in Canberra talk about taking that right away sickens me. That combined with the direction we are going with unfair working place conditions concerns me deeply. |
| 269 | Heidelberg West | VIC | My household finances have got harder. Both my partner and I are earning quite a bit less than we were in our previous roles. Neither of us has job security. A pay cut for either of us would be devastating. |
| 140 | Ivanhoe | VIC | While I earn a very good wage now, as I'm single I basically pay the same costs of living that couples pay on two wages. I don't mind family assistance, but single people get nothing. Sometimes a little relief would help. Health care is too expensive especially dentistry. Despite my salary, I really can't afford things that I need to have done. |
| 428 | Keilorpark | VIC | As skilled workers on medium income we are ok , the unskilled workforce on out sight may be struggling |
| 35 | Langwarrin | VIC | Household finances have got harder over the last few years. We may receive a modest pay rise every 3-5 years. If there was a pay freeze we would be living without much food and stop using gas or electricity and have no landline. It's hard to tell young adults that we just can't afford mobile phones. |
| 265 | Lara | VIC | As stated earlier I have not had a pay rise in two years. My bills are going up, prices are going up. This means I spend less on retail and entertainment. If you want the economy to pick up you need the masses spending. |
| 117 | Leopold | VIC | I was surviving ok on the award wage. |
| 44 | Lovely Banks | VIC | No. I have to work 7 days to give my family a better life than I had. |
| 81 | Lynbrook | VIC | I was fortunate in the fact that via enterprise negotiations, I received a good rate of pay as well as penalty rates. Pay increases whilst modest (2.5 - 4%) were annual which certainly allowed my wage to maintain its relevance. I utilize strong budgeting tools and found that any bill that increased greater than 5% needed to be looked at closely to either reduce usage or seek alternative billers. I found that council rates over the last 15 years in the city I reside in exceeded that growth consistently and was often as high as an 8.5% annual increase. There is no alternative to this bill. Electricity has often reached increases greater than 5% but was accommodated by using low wattage and energy efficient products but meant a constant awareness of energy use to keep things in check. Water costs have increased greater than pay rises over the last ten years and rises dramatically based on a three tier pricing rate, with a family of three daughters, reaching the third tier price was unavoidable even with usage adjustments. Insurances, car, building, contents, death, injury, have exceeded the rate of pay increases on a terrible scale and have shown increases >30% all due to high claim rates according to the insurance companies. Telecommunications appears to be the only utility that has grown slower than pay rises. Many workers that I know do not receive annual pay increases or very small increases which means they then rely on penalty rates even more so to survive. Many often rely on overtime to meet their financial commitments. |
| 67 | Maddingley | VIC | Answered already above. If the commission don't know the answer already, they aren't worth what they're getting paid. |
| 68 | Melbourne | VIC | I was on a pay freeze on my last role even though I had taken on many more responsibilities. This was another reason why I have chosen to start my own business, so that I now have control over what I am paid. |
| 309 | Melton West | VIC | I already said, life would be hell. Please do not change any of the current wages. Any changes to current system would be catastrophic to hard working people. |
| 226 | Mernda | VIC | As I mentioned before, I have had a wage freeze for the last 7 years! I get by okay but it would be much easier if my wages were keeping up with the increases in everything else. |
| 426 | Moe | VIC | I have found it more difficult to cope financially even though my wage has recently increased. I have enough to pay the bills and buy food but there is not much left over. Costs continue to increase, but my wages don't seem to increase to match. A pay cut or freeze would put me at risk of going into debt which I cannot afford. |
| 393 | Montrose | VIC | With a diminishing job market and slow wage rises, life has become a lot harder for many families. How can anyone on a limited income keep up with yearly 10-15 % living cost increases, when they only get a 2.7 % CPI wage or pension increase or none? How can anyone still expect that people can go out and spend? Every household has a revenue problem, because the whole system is going backwards. Lower wages means less taxes and less taxes mean less revenue for Governments. |
| 306 | Moonee Ponds | VIC | Not enough, far too big a share going to owners! |
| 207 | Mordialloc | VIC | Cost of living goes up much faster than salaries rise. Everyone has gone backward, paying a higher proportion of their wage to meet living expenses. I get an annual pay rise, as negotiated by my union, but that pay rise is barely keeping pace with CPI, so I am going backward. |
| 399 | Mount Evelyn | VIC | They have gotten harder as the cost of living has risen. Our pay rises are linked to, a long fought battle for equal pay which will take a long time to be fully implemented. This did erode our above award conditions, so it didn't give us all we deserved. |
| 71 | Murrumbeena | VIC | My wage is not enough to live on. In my industry pay rises tend to be about $10 flat every so often. These tend to be losing purchasing power, given rises in healthcare costs and utilities. I could not cope with a wage freeze or wage cut unless there was also a price freeze. This is not likely to occur. |
| 74 | Newport | VIC | I am lucky that my partner has a full time job, but my sense of dignity and pride in bringing in an income too is extremely challenged in this casual work situation. |
| 355 | Northcote | VIC | I am on a middle-manager's salary which I think is commensurate with my skills and experience, and receive annual increments. A pay cut or freeze would not be particularly welcome, but also would not pose immediate hardship. |
| 440 | Pakenham | VIC | I all ways thought I got a pretty good income. It was enough to pay the bills and live. Then I had the experience which has changed my mind. I get about $34 an hour, no over time. 19 years’ experience and a Masters degree. My nephew dropped out of high school and got a job working as a labourer in road construction. He gets $42 per hour with unlimited overtime if he wanted. Made me think what I'm I doing? I've spent a fortune getting educated at university, I work unsociable hours, in high stress, dealing with life and death situation, with a threat of being sued for simply doing my job and I earn less then someone who dropped at of high school, has little responsibility, and never has people threatening to sue them. Why would you want to become a nurse? It's certainly not for the pay. |
| 223 | Preston | VIC | My wage changes every fortnight due to the 16week roster we work. I earn approx $10 more in the hand for working a graveyard shift 2330-0730 which I do every 3 weeks. I have trouble getting back into a normal sleeping pattern after these shifts and if you were to be rostered on xmas eve start, you work 7.5 hours into xmas day and get no extra for it as the rate is based on the day you start, not finish. If you were to ask most people would you work 5 or 6 of these graves in a row over Xmas/nyr for $10 a day more and sleep thru Xmas day/bbq with friends or family/day at the beach...they would say hell no. But it’s part of the job so there is no other choice. Would I do it without penalties, absolutely not. Mortgage rates thank goodness are stable but we don't get pay rises except the negotiated eba rates of 3percent per year, never any more. Food, veg & groceries have gone up substantially. Even our English family and European friends who visited said Australia is expensive for meals and other consumables. A pay cut or freeze would cripple my household. As it is I only buy meat on special, and try to grow fruit and vegetables myself as we are lucky to have a back yard. I note fruit trees around the neighbourhood and scavenge if accessible in public areas and recycle and reuse a lot - we also collect rain water for our garden so as to keep our water bills manageable. We are very frugal by necessity. |
| 32 | Seaford | VIC | Have dealt with pay freezes as well as pay cuts in the past, with terrible consequences financially. Causes stress which impacts on work. |
| 303 | Seaford | VIC | Not enough at present |
| 2 | Seddon | VIC | Teachers continue to fall further and further behind other equivalent professions. |
| 229 | Shelbourne | VIC | With careful planning and budgeting we get by, we can still enjoy some special activities. I receive a small pay rise once a year but this hardly keeps pace with the rate that goods and services increase. |
| 302 | South Yarra | VIC | Finances are somewhat relative, as you pay down a mortgage it may get easier. My wage has reduced overall as once it was the equivalent of a backbencher. As I age it has got easier for me but I feel for the majority it has not. The biggest costs being housing, Gas, electricity, Petrol, insurance, food to some extent and even banking. These things have an unfair mark up and even though you might use $20 of Gas your bill could be $80 with all the added costs etc. It is very unrealistic. |
| 29 | Spring Gully | VIC | If the government has its way - I won't get any pay rises over the next 3 years! I am at the top of my pay group and the only pay rise I will, possibly, see will be less than CPI! And I won't be able to negotiate again for another 3 years. |
| 51 | Springvale South | VIC | No it's not enough. |
| 119 | Sunbury | VIC | My employer does not keep up with the inflation rate every year I go backwards in wages. |
| 147 | Sunbury | VIC | Pay rates seem to be going down in the industry I last worked in they dropped 10% on average last year. In a single income household it is getting harder. Although I will say that when working I am luckier than most and can make ends meet I do typically live modestly. |
| 235 | Tarneit | VIC | Only eba based and is just enough |
| 137 | Thornbury | VIC | We could not sustain any sort of cut in pay. |
| 331 | Upper Ferntree Gully | VIC | Certainly the cost of living has gone up far more than the CPI reflects. An employee really needs to gain at least 4% increase per year to maintain living standards. CPI is not a true indicator of inflation, but Governments and the Corporate world already know that. |
| 279 | Vermont | VIC | Household finance have been harder as we are a two income household with two kids with minimal pay rises, increasing bills and yet we pay more tax than some of Australia's most wealthy! |
| 282 | Vermont South | VIC | My pay has increased over the past 5 years but has not kept pace with inflation so in real terms it has gone backwards. I am coping because I live within my means. But a wage freeze or pay cut would significantly place pressure on my life as I am approaching retirement and furiously trying to save for retirement. |
| 150 | Wantirna South | VIC | I have already taken pay freezes and pay cuts to help the company manage themselves into a better position but all I see is my CEO and all their Board Members and Executives living lavish lives, earning beyond their needs whist the workers like myself would see even less in finance coming their way and work harder or get second jobs to sustain ourselves. |
| 97 | Warneet | VIC | My wage is ok. I can get by but it is considerably less than other people my age get and they work 38 hour weeks. 9-5 mon-fri and get 2 days off in a row and public holidays. |
| 31 | Warrenheip | VIC | My wages are adequate but overall education support people are grossly underpaid. |
| 374 | Warsonia | VIC | The cost of living is increasing- all bills have increased over the last few years and pay rises not happening. A pay cut or wage freeze would make living more difficult and unfairly so. I am a single person earning an above average salary yet find expenses tough. How difficult must it be for people on lower wages? How difficult is it already for those on fixed incomes? |
| 281 | Waurn Ponds | VIC | I was lucky enough to have a good salary, with good penalty rates and superannuation, but again I am aware of many examples of workers who have not had any increase for some years, or the small increases they have had, have failed to match the huge increase in general costs of living anyway. I quick read of demands on charities, in this country, paints a concerning picture of life for many, and I would hope the productivity commission does not add to the already problem by taking away penalties. |
| 10 | West Footscray | VIC | Our pay rises are normally yearly but as our company has been sold and is merging with another company I don't know if this will continue. With a pay cut I might cope for a little while on my savings but would eventually become very difficult. |
| 123 | Whorouly | VIC | I don't earn enough for a 38 hour week so I have to work Saturdays and Sundays. Makes the competition for Overtime fierce and embarrassing. NUFF said on that. |
| 322 | Williams Landing | VIC | Wage rises have been sparse while trying to negotiate new agreement. A pay cut would put me behind the rate of inflation. |
| 344 | Wodonga | VIC | Absolutely not as is I live week to week take out bills I can’t even take my kids for an ice cream. |
| 289 | Woodend | VIC | My wages haven't kept up with inflation for a few years now. Household finances are very tight. I have a 'good' job, but we still all wear op shop clothes and never go on holidays. When something around the house needs maintenance it's a big stress. Hours of |
| 350 | Yarraville | VIC | Wages must at least keep up with inflation. Anything less is pure injustice. Shareholders must suffer before employees. |
| 283 | Aubin Grove | WA | Household finances are always a struggle because of the constant increase in living. Pay rise is yearly. If I had a pay cut or price freeze I would have to look for more work. |
| 24 | Baldivis | WA | with everything going up mortgage rates even if it’s gone down a little bit it’s still quite high you pay 2000 off from the mortgage and then interest comes out 2100 we are not paying the mortgage off efficiently are we it will take years to pay off I will be 80 yrs before I pay it off and Australia will be even more in dept. |
| 82 | Bassendean | WA | Wages are basic and most families need two incomes to cope with household bills, not expensive living just the basics. |
| 224 | Bertram | WA | We barely cover a mortgage and normal household bills, never enough for a holiday. |
| 437 | Bibra Lake | WA | I am dropping from a $92000 administration position 9-5 job to pursue my passion of nursing and will then have a base rate of $60,000. This drop in pay from a non-university degree qualification job to one seems silly but I would rely on penalty rates and allowances to boost the wage and pay. A pay rise to nurses considering the education and work hours would be fantastic although I know it is always a battle. |
| 345 | Bulgarra | WA | Our expenses have increased over the last 3 years ($3000.00 for unground power) and our EBA was due in 2010, Offshore Companies are stalling in negotiations with Fair Work. |
| 240 | Floreat | WA | Wages haven't kept pace with inflation for the last decade. Our country is the most leveraged economy in the world. Either two things will happen. 1, Wages will double in order to pay down personal debt (unlikely) or 2, The overstretched, banker caressed housing bubble will burst, decimating our economy (most are preparing for this). |
| 349 | Forrestfield | WA | If I received a pay cut or freeze I would have to sell my house. |
| 257 | Leschenault | WA | As I only work fifteen and half days a week I receive part new start allowance so no my wage is not enough to live on. Yes my pay does go up - example this year I received a $5.00 a week rise, the new start allowance reduced by $3.00, so I was $2 better off - 2 loaves of cheap bread instead of 1. The cost of living seems to be going up far more than any wage rise I receive. |
| 155 | Maida Vale | WA | On a flexibility agreement, I have no mechanism by which I can earn more, but I can be forced to work more hours for nothing. As the sole provider for my family, and the pressure to also provide into retirement, which has overnight for me jumped from 63 to 67, I would say I do just make ends meet on $125K gross. I just pray that neither I nor my wife gets sick and that I am able to work long enough to have the required nest egg. Now if I was on $200K pa with a pretty much guaranteed 30% productivity bonus, I would be rolling around like a pig in poo. But I am not a manager, and never will be because as a union delegate I stand up for the little guys rights! As a result of standing up for workers’ rights, I am a marked man and my career prospects have gone down the toilet. |
| 37 | Morley | WA | I am retired so my income is fixed. However my wife is still in the work place and is in the process of more or less forced transfer from government employment to private. Indications are that her income will reduce and she is still getting the details. |
| 243 | Nannup | WA | Household finances have gotten harder over the last few years, as inflation takes its toll. Nurses award rates, for a long time there, were not keeping up with inflation and living in WA, one of the most expensive states to live in, hasn't helped. I do receive a small pay rise each year due to our award but as things stand at the moment, a pay cut or even a freeze could be detrimental to my family. At the moment I can't even take my annual leave for more than a week at a time because I cannot pay my mortgage on base wage. |
| 294 | Perth | WA | I have earned a fair wage as an electronic technician for the past 15 years. The price of living is outrageous!!! So... my estimate as requested. In Perth, Western Australia, I estimate to actually live as a single person you need to earn over 750/week, clear. You would be a normal citizen. |
| 182 | Rockingham | WA | I fear over time my pay will go down. |
| 65 | Samson | WA | Personally I am in better circumstances than a few years ago as I have achieved a promotion. Never the less the value of that remuneration does need to keep pace with the cost of living and society’s expectation of wealth standards. |
| 446 | Scarborough | WA | Harder to get a head pay cuts will hurt. |
| 23 | South Perth | WA | My wage is enough to get by on, but not to do something like buy a flat or save a deposit for one. |
| 255 | South Perth | WA | Our household expenses have worsened however my income has decreased significantly. I have recently been working extra unpaid work to keep my job. Hours vary however are in the region of an additional 20 hours a week. |
| 450 | Spearwood | WA | As mentioned earlier I did not receive a pay increase in more than five years. I may have got a pay rise every 5-7 years in my 22.5 years of employment. Cost keep going up and I had to absorb them by going without essential items. I do not smoke, drink or go out for any entertainment. |
| 127 | Sunset Beach | WA | A pay cut would be devastating. The rising cost of daily living has meant less luxuries, more scrimping, often buying things that are cheaper rather than being able to buy what we really want but just can't afford - and I don't mean expensive gee gaws. I'd love to buy organic food and better cuts of meat, but we buy sausages and mince and a lot of frozen food because it's cheaper and lasts longer. |
| 375 | Waggrakine | WA | The latest pay offers to the majority of Australian Public Service agencies do not reflect the inflation rate, low as it is. This means that workers will, if they accept, face an effective pay cut. Leaving aside the morality of such actions, it means that their household budgets will come under increasing strain at a time when other costs such as utilities are rising. |
| 118 | Warnbro | WA | The 12 months I was permanent (my grad year) were fantastic. I had a stable income with leave so was able to prevent myself from being burnt out. Since being agency, this has become a lot harder as I am having to force myself to those few extra shifts as the work may not be there next week. |
| 225 | Waroona | WA | My wage is enough now but I wouldn't work for any less. Condition must get better with inflation and the economy. So everyone gets off poverty line. |
| 6 | Yangebup | WA | Our household budget would seriously suffer is there is no pay increases. Everything else has gone up including food and we are falling behind. |
| 136 | Yangebup | WA | My household budget has become tighter due to the passing of my wife 18 months ago. I'm keeping my head above water, but only just. |