

>>> Vicki Telfer 10/17/2012 10:31 am >>>
Dear Colleagues

Over the last few months I have seen all of you working with a high degree of professionalism and maturity even in light of the uncertainty surrounding the contract for the delivery of services with the FairWork Ombudsman. The work you have achieved has been amazing with 58 files finalised last week.

However, I know many of you are very keen to know what is happening with the contract with the FairWork Ombudsman. At this stage NO decision has been made in relation to the FWO contract. Unfortunately, the decision has been delayed because of the recent machinery of government changes and the new Administrative Orders.

Since my last update, negotiations surrounding the FWO Contract have progressed beyond NSW IR & FWO Senior Officer level discussions. The matter has been discussed with the Minister and at the request of the Minister a brief is being prepared for the Government's consideration

As a result of the delay in a decision I have agreed with FWO that, in the meantime, they will not be allocating any further FWO complaint or audit work to NSW IR. This is an unfortunate situation but is being done to manage the risk of a decision being made that has the contract end on 31 December 2012. I am sure that IRSD staff will continue to behave in a professional and mature manner whilst continuing to achieve the excellent results of the last six months or more.

I am hoping that a decision will be made in the very near future so we can provide certainty to staff on what the future looks like. You have my commitment that as soon as a decision is made in relation to the FWO contract that staff will be advised as a matter of priority.

I understand that the current situation is likely to cause staff concern and as individuals we all cope with things differently.

I encourage everyone to continue to support and treat each other with Dignity and Respect and I would like to remind staff that the **Employee Assistance Program** is available to them free of charge.

The EAP is a short-term counselling and advice service for employees and their immediate families who seek professional assistance for any personal or work related problem. It is an established and recognised approach to help staff resolve problems that impinge on their work performance and stability.

Appointments with a counsellor need to be made in advance.

General Counselling Services

Tel: 1300 366 789

Emergency and Out-of-hours Telephone Counselling

Tel: 1800 451 138

Use of the EAP is strictly private and confidential. Counsellors are bound by a code of conduct - information about your attendance, assistance provided, or any other details of the counselling sessions can only be disclosed with your written consent.

I reiterate that NO decision has yet been made in relation to the FWO contract but as soon as a decision is made I will let you know.

kind regards

Vicki Telfer | Executive Director

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