

IN THE TASMANIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Industrial Relations Act 1984

T.420 of 1986

IN THE MATTER OF an application by
the Tasmanian Chamber of Industries
to vary the **TOTALIZATOR AGENCY AWARD**

Re insertion of a new classification
- Senior Technician

PRESIDENT

4 JULY 1986

REASONS FOR DECISION

APPEARANCES:

For the Tasmanian Chamber of Industries appearing
on behalf of the Totalizator Agency Board

- Mr. T.J. Abey

For the Federated Clerks' Union

- Mr. D. Fry

DATE AND PLACE OF HEARING:

2.7.86

Hobart

This application by the Tasmanian Chamber of Industries, on behalf of the Totalizator Agency Board, sought the insertion of a new classification of "Senior Technician" in the Totalizator Agency Award.

The application was pursued in accordance with Principle 4, and was based upon changes in work value.

Mr. Abey, representing the Totalizator Agency Board, led evidence from Mr. Jeremy Bickford, Computer Systems Controller. Mr. Bickford indicated that there were problems with the current staffing arrangements in the Technicians' Section of the T.A.B., including the lack of a technician identified as "in charge". This situation was giving rise to confusion and causing problems when priorities were to be determined and staff needed to be managed or directed.

There are at present 3 computer technicians employed by the agency: 2 in Hobart and 1 in Launceston. But none is nominated as the Senior Technician. Collectively they repair around 250 terminals throughout the State located at 100 or so agencies. In addition, their duties involve faultfinding on the telecommunications equipment involving around 40 telephone betting terminals, together with tape recording equipment.

Because the technicians assign duties on a day-to-day basis amongst themselves, this leads to problems in situations where there happens to be a conflict of interest. For example, assignments involving overnight trips to repair equipment on the West and East Coast, and allocation of weekend and public holidays may not be fair to all concerned.

Supervision of the technicians is the responsibility of the Computer Systems Controller, but in his absence the Senior Programmer is responsible for the operation. It was stated by Mr. Bickford that the Senior Programmer does not have the necessary experience in technician-type activities to fulfil this position.

To overcome the problems being experienced, it was proposed that a new classification of Senior Technician be created, and that one of the existing technicians be promoted to the position.

Mr. Bickford described the the work to be performed by the appointee to the new classification as: The key man or contact point in the Department; day-to-day allocation of duties for the Northern and local Hobart Technician; to be responsible for the allocation of overnight trips, weekend and public holiday allocation; in the absence of the Computer Systems Controller to be responsible for the reallocation of lines with Telecom, and general policy matters as are predetermined. These additional skills and responsibilities, it was submitted, are over and above those of a technician.

Mr. Fry, representing the Federated Clerks' Union, agreed with the application.

I am satisfied from evidence and submissions that grounds exist to justify introduction of a new classification of Senior Technician. The proposed salary range for the position of \$21893 to \$25177, falls marginally below that for a Programmer. However as the salary levels referred to do not represent an incremental range but simply create the scope within which an appointment could be made, it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

I also decide that the operative date for variation of the award to include the position of Senior Technician should be, as requested, from the date of lodgment of the application, namely the first pay period to commence on or after 22 May 1986.

