

HEARING RECOMMENCED 10.35am

COMMISSIONER: Same appearances? Yes, Mr Paterson?

MR PATERSON: If the commission pleases, I understand the business, if you like, of today's hearing is really to finalise the matters that are before you. The order issued effectively deals with all the principle 16 matters of the award review. It's our intention at this stage to agree that this matter before you be closed and that the union will make a fresh application to the commission to vary the wages and classifications in accordance with the other principles cited in our original application.

I'd also at this time like to report to the commission that I believe we've got very substantial progress. I think we are very close to agreement on a classification and wages structure for this award. It is a matter now of attending to the detail of the actual format that would - a format that a draft order would be put in and the details of the actual minimum rates adjustments and negotiating the agreement on the timing of the increases and the quantum of the increases.

The work done by the Law Society, I believe, has certainly moved some considerable distance away from the structure of the classifications that the union had proposed, but nonetheless I believe there's a significant degree of consistency and on the information available to me at this stage, a reasonable fit to the structure of positions in the legal industry in Tasmania. So I do believe that we're closer now than ever before to reaching a final position and I would be very optimistic at this stage that when we make the application to vary the award we may in fact be able to accompany it with a draft consent order and it is really just a matter of the parties meeting to finalise such a draft order and the other documentation that may need to accompany it.

COMMISSIONER: Thanks, Mr Paterson.

MR PATERSON: If the commission pleases.

COMMISSIONER: Is that your understanding, Mr O'Neill?

MR O'NEILL: Yes, it certainly is, sir, and I concur with those submissions put to you by Mr Paterson, that the application before you be closed and I'm also pleased to report that significant progress has been made in respect of developing a new classification structure for the Barristers and Solicitors Award, and as Mr Paterson pointed out, we'll be making a fresh application in respect of that matter and I'm confident as well that we'll be able to come before the commission with a consent order. If it pleases.

COMMISSIONER: Yes. Thanks, Mr O'Neill. Gentlemen, you won't object if I use the word that you're seeking to withdraw will you, Mr Paterson?

MR PATERSON: No, not at all.

COMMISSIONER: Mr O'Neill?

MR O'NEILL: No. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER: All right. Well, thank you, gentlemen. I'm sorry I
wasn't able to see this marathon through to the end but I wish you
good luck with the settlement of those final two matters and look
forward to seeing the final decision before too long. I think there is
nothing else. This matter will be - application to withdraw will be
10 granted and, as I said before, I wish the parties luck with the final
settlement. Thank you.

HEARING CONCLUDED 10.40am