

IN

ANNUAL WAGE REVIEW 2021-2022

SUBMISSION IN REPLY

1. The Retail and Fast Food Workers Union Incorporated (“RAFFWU”) represents workers in the industries of Fast Food and Retail (including pharmacy staff who are not pharmacists and service station workers) as an Industrial Association within the meaning of the Fair Work Act.
2. We submit current minimum wages in Awards and under the Act fundamentally fail to enable workers to live in dignity. We do not and would not rely on the conservative Government’s budget position. We rely on the lived experience of our members and the poverty in which they live because of the discriminatory wage practices of their employers.
3. We note the extensive work undertaken assessing poverty wages and submit the minimum wage for all workers should be based on an Australian Living Wage of at least \$26 per hour.
4. We submit the Annual Wage Review should replace all rates (currently lower than the following rates) in the retail, miscellaneous and fast food Awards with a minimum base hourly rate of \$26 and a minimum base weekly rate of \$988.
5. The replacement should include all rates (lower than these rates) including poverty rates such as junior, trainee, apprentice and supported wage rates. We note these poverty rates are clearly below the rates identified as “poverty line” rates in the FWC Statistical reports for 2022.
6. The elimination of all poverty rates and the introduction of a true Australian Living Wage should be the absolute priority at this time.

9 May 2022

Retail and Fast Food Workers Union