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By email: amod@fwc.gov.au
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Commissioner Johns
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Commissioner

Re. AM2015/6 – Education Group (Coverage of Professional Employees Award 2010)

We refer to the above matter and the amended variation to the *Professional Employees Award 2010 (PEA)* filed jointly by AMRI and APESMA on 4 July 2016.

The amendments proposed by AMRI and APESMA arose from discussions which have taken place between Ai Group, AMRI and APESMA. As a result of those discussions, a consent position has been reached, as reflected in the amended variation filed on 4 July.

Ai Group is the major employer organisation representing employers covered by the PEA.

In our [submissions](#) dated 6 May 2016, Ai Group expressed in principle support for the coverage of medical research institutes and relevant medical research employees by the PEA and acknowledged that many of these employees are already covered by the PEA.

Ai Group had, however, some concerns with the drafting of the original variation proposed by AMRI and APESMA as described in our submissions of 6 May 2016. Those concerns were that the original variation:

- (a) Departed from some key principles in the PEA regarding the professional qualifications held by employees covered by the award; and
- (b) Had the potential to disturb the coverage of other modern awards and/or the current award-free arrangements in place for some employees.

Ai Group considers that the amended variation addresses our concerns.

Accordingly, Ai Group supports the amended application filed by AMRI and APESMA and submits that the appropriate modern award to cover medical research institutes and their relevant medical research employees is the PEA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Smith

Head of National Workplace Relations Policy