

About the F23AB declaration

Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a single-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

When to use this form

Enterprise agreements are agreements made at the enterprise level that contain terms and conditions of employment.

Enterprise agreements can be varied:

- under section 207 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> (the Act) in general circumstances by the employer and employees
- under sections 216A and 216B, section 216C, and sections 216D and 216DB of the Act respectively to add an employer and employees to a supported bargaining agreement, cooperative workplace agreement or single interest employer agreement
- under section 216E of the Act to remove an employer and employees from a multienterprise agreement, or
- under sections 217, 218 or 218A of the Act respectively to remove an ambiguity or uncertainty, on referral by the Australian Human Rights Commission, or to correct or amend errors, defects or irregularities.

A variation made by an employer and employees (including a variation under section 207) has no effect unless it is approved by the Fair Work Commission (the Commission).

This form provides information to assist the Commission to determine whether to approve a variation of a single-enterprise agreement under section 207 of the Fair Work Act 2009. This form can be used if:

- you are an employer that is covered by the agreement (or an officer or authorised employee completing this form for an employer)
- a Form F23 Application under section 210 for approval of a variation of an enterprise agreement has been or is being lodged with the Commission
- the agreement proposed to be varied is a single-enterprise agreement, and
- the employer(s) requested **on or after 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it.

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If the employer(s) requested **before 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it, you will need to complete Form F23AA instead of this form.

If the agreement proposed to be varied is a multi-enterprise agreement and the employer(s) requested **on or after 6 June 2023** that affected employees for the variation approve the variation by voting for it, you will need to complete Form F23AC instead of this form.

What is covered in this form

Part 1 – Details of the employer, employees and the agreement

Part 2 – Requirements for approval

Part 2.1 – Informing affected employees of bargaining for the variation and their capacity to be represented

Part 2.2 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to consider the variation

Part 2.3 – Explaining the terms of the variation

Part 2.4 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to vote on the variation in a free and informed manner

Part 2.5 – Sufficient interest and sufficiently representative

Part 2.6 – Voting on the variation

Part 3 – The better off overall test and National Employment Standards

Part 3.1 – The better off overall test

Part 3.2 – The National Employment Standards

Part 4 – Statistical information

What you may need when completing this form

When completing this form, you will be required to provide information about the variation and the steps taken before it was made. To assist you to answer these questions, it would be useful to have available:

- a copy of any material provided to employees about the variation, such as explanatory material
- records of the dates and steps that were taken during the variation process, such as details
 provided to employees about when and how the vote was to occur
- a signed copy of the variation
- a copy of the agreement as proposed to be varied

• a copy of the relevant modern award(s) for comparison with the agreement as proposed to be varied.

How to lodge and serve your completed form

1.	Within 14 calendar days after the variation is made, you must lodge with the Commission:
	This declaration and
	Copies of any materials provided to employees to explain to them about bargaining for the variation and their capacity to be represented for the variation (see questions 5 and 6) and
	Copies of any materials used to explain to employees the terms of the variation and the effect of those terms (see question 8) and
	Copies of any materials used to ensure the explanation was provided in an appropriate manner taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of the relevant employees (see question 9) and
	Copies of any materials provided to employees to notify them of the time and place at which the vote was to occur and the voting method to be used (see question 10)

You can lodge your form by post, fax or email, or in person at the <u>Commission office</u> in your state or territory.

- 2. **As soon as practicable** after this declaration is lodged with the Commission, you must **serve a copy** of this declaration and any supporting material upon:
 - each other employer that is covered by the agreement and
 - each employee organisation that is covered by the agreement.

Where to get help

Commission staff & resources

Commission staff cannot provide legal advice. However, staff can give you information on:

- Commission processes
- how to make an application to the Commission
- how to fill out forms
- where to find useful documents such as legislation and decisions
- other organisations that may be able to assist you.

The Commission's website www.fwc.gov.au also contains a range of information that may assist.

Throughout this form



This icon appears throughout the form. It indicates information to help you complete the form.

You will find further useful information in the Information Sheet at the end of this form.

Fair Work Act 2009, s. 210; Fair Work Commission Rules 2013, rule 25 and Schedule 1

This is a declaration in support of an application to the Fair Work Commission under section 210 of the Fair Work Act 2009 for approval of a variation of an enterprise agreement under Part 2-4 of the Fair Work Act 2009, where the employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

he variation.		
l,		
[insert name of persor	n making the declaration]	
[insert postal address of pe	erson making the declaration]	
[insert suburb]	[insert State or Territory]	[insert postcode]
[insert occupation of perso	n making the declaration]	
leclare that:		
Part 1 – Details of the	employer, employees and the agre	ement
What is the name of	the employer?	
Legal name of employer		
Employer's ACN (if a company)		
Employer's trading name or registered		

business name (if applicable)			
Employer's ABN			
_	_		
/ - \		name exactly as it appears in the title clause of the agreement and include the t ID/Code Number if known.	
	the agree loyer?	ement as proposed to be varied cover all the employees of the	
	be satisfied	ns 211(1), 186(3) and 186(3A) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> . The Commission must d that the group of employees covered by the agreement as proposed to be fairly chosen.	
□ Yes			
□ No			
varied and v be satisfied	what group that the gr	What group of employees is covered by the agreement as proposed to be of employees is not covered? Explain why you think the Commission should oup covered was fairly chosen. If relevant, describe how the group of geographically, operationally or organisationally distinct.	
	the variati g covered	ion result in employees who were not covered by the agreement by it?	
	See s.211(2	1A) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> .	

☐ Ye	□ Yes			
□ No	□ No			
•			 Are any of the employers of the emplecified in either of the following: 	oyees who will be newly covered by the
☐ Su	pport	ted barga	ining authorisation	
☐ Sir	ngle ir	nterest er	nployer authorisation	
Part	2 – I	Require	ements for approval	
			ng affected employees of bargaining e represented	for the variation and their
5	Desc	ribe the s	teps the employer took to inform the a	affected employees that:
a.	the	employe	er is bargaining for a proposed variation	n, and
b.	of t	the cover	age of the agreement as proposed to b	e varied?
(i	See sections 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> . Also see section 188B(3)(a) of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraph 1(a) of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.		2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009	
		what info	each step taken and state the date on vormation was given to employees at each ion given during meetings, by email or p	ch step. For example, describe
	Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to inform employees.			
Dat	e(s)		Steps taken	Information given

- 6 Describe the steps the employer took to inform the affected employees of:
 - a. their capacity to be represented in relation to the proposed variation, including by an employee organisation or by another representative of their choice, and
 - b. how to exercise that capacity.



See sections 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. Also see section 188B(3)(b) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraph 1(b) of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Describe each step taken and state the date on which it was taken. Include details of what information was given to employees at each step. For example, describe information given during meetings, by email or post, and on noticeboards.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to inform employees.

Date(s)	Steps taken	Information given

Part 2.2 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to consider the variation



See sections 211, 186(2) and 188(1) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. Also see section 188B(3)(c) of the Fair Work Act 2009, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraph 4 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

The Commission must take into account paragraph 4 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

7.1 Did the employer provide employees entitled to vote on the variation with copies of the variation and incorporated materials in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement?

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See paragraph 5 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

☐ Yes – Go to question 7.2
□ No – Explain below how the employer provided employees with a reasonable opportunity to
consider the variation before voting on it, so that the employees could vote in an informed manner
Then go to question 8.

	for approval of a variation of a single-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation
.2 Describe	the steps the employer took so that, a reasonable time period before the
start of t entitled	he voting on the variation, the employer provided to employees who were to vote on the variation: opy of the variation, and
	opy of any other material incorporated by reference in the variation.
(j) of t	e paragraphs 5 to 7 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement. Paragraph 6 the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement says what a 'reasonable time riod' includes, and paragraph 7 says how the copies may be provided to employees.
Describe each s	step taken and state the date on which it was taken.
Date(s)	Steps taken to provide to employees entitled to vote on the variation a full copy of the variation and of any other material incorporated by reference in the variation.
ist the other m	naterial incorporated by reference in the variation (if any).

Form F23AB – Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210

Part 2.3 – Explaining the terms of the variation

8 What steps were taken by the employer to explain the terms of the variation, what was explained and how was the effect of those terms explained to the affected employees?

See sections 211, 186(2), 188(4A) and 180(5)(a) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. The employer must take all reasonable steps to ensure the terms of the variation, and the effect of those terms, are explained to the affected employees for the variation.

Also see section 188B(3)(d) of the Fair Work Act 2009 and regulation 2.10A of the Fair Work Regulations 2009. The Commission must also take into account paragraphs 8 to 14 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.



Describe the steps taken to explain to the employees the terms of the variation and the effect of those terms. For example, describe how the information was given in meetings, by email or post, and by other means. Write down the date on which each step was taken.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to explain the variation to the employees.

Include details of what was explained to the employees. Do not simply state that the terms of the variation were explained to employees.

Date(s)	Steps taken	Explanation given

When the employer explained the terms of the variation, and the effect of those terms, to the affected employees, what was done to take into account the particular circumstances and needs of the affected employees?

See sections 211, 186(2), 188(4A) and 180(5)(b) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>. The employer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the explanation is provided in an appropriate manner.

As applied to variations, section 180(6) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> provides as examples of the kinds of employees whose circumstances and needs are to be taken into account, employees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young employees and employees who didn't have a representative for the variation.



The Commission must also take into account paragraph 14 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Identify the relevant group of employees addressed and their particular circumstances (for example employees from a non-English speaking background or young employees). Describe the steps the employer took to accommodate their circumstances. Write down the date on which each step was taken.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were used to ensure the explanation to employees was provided in an appropriate manner (if not lodged in response to question 8).

Do not simply state that the employer took reasonable steps to ensure the explanation was provided in an appropriate manner.

Date of step	Step taken	Relevant group of employees addressed

Part 2.4 – Providing employees with a reasonable opportunity to vote on the variation in a free and informed manner



See sections 211, 186(2), 188(1) and 188B(3)(e) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, regulation 2.10A of the <u>Fair Work Regulations 2009</u> and paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

10 Describe the steps that were taken to inform employees entitled to vote of:

- a. the time and place for the vote, and
- b. the voting method.

See paragraph 16 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Describe how employees were informed about the time and place for the vote and the voting method. For example, describe information given during meetings, by email or post, and on noticeboards. Include the date each of these steps was taken.

Also lodge copies of any materials that were provided to employees to notify them about the vote.

Do not simply state that the relevant employees were notified by the specified time.

Date(s)	Steps taken and information given to employees about time and place for vote and voting method

11.1 Describe the voting process for the variation.
See paragraph 15 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.
Describe the voting process used and the method and period of the vote, and explain how all employees entitled to vote were provided with a fair and reasonable opportunity to cast a vote.
11.2 Describe any further steps taken to give employees a reasonable opportunity to vote on the variation in a free and informed manner.
Part 2.5 - Sufficient interest and sufficiently representative

Part 2.5 – Sufficient interest and sufficiently representative

- 12 Explain how the employees requested to vote on the variation:
 - a. have a sufficient interest in the terms of the variation, and
 - b. are sufficiently representative, having regard to the employees the agreement as proposed to be varied is expressed to cover?

188B(3)(g) of the Fair Work Act 2009 and paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement.

Part 2.6 – Voting on the variation

13 Provide the following dates:



See s.209 of the Fair Work Act 2009

Event	Date
The date voting for the variation to the agreement commenced (that is, the first date that an employee was able to cast a vote).	
The date that the variation was made (that is, the date on which the voting process by which the affected employees approved the variation concluded).	

14 Provide the following details about the vote on the variation:

At the time of the vote, how many affected employees were there?	
How many of these employees cast a valid vote?	
How many of these employees voted to approve the variation?	

Part 3 – The better off overall test and National Employment Standards

This section requires you to answer questions about how the enterprise agreement as proposed to be varied compares to the modern award(s) that cover the employer and employees covered by the agreement as proposed to be varied, and how the agreement as proposed to be varied interacts with the National Employment Standards in the Fair Work Act 2009.

This is important for the Commission to be able to determine whether or not your variation satisfies the legislative requirements for approval.

Please attach any supporting material you wish to include in your application.

Part 3.1 – The better off overall tes	off overall tes	better off	– The	.1	Part 3
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	application for approval of the variation	ommission to be satisfied, as at the time the was made, that each award covered employee, yee would be better off overall under the
	the modern award(s), if any, that current lloyees to whom the agreement as propo	
	You should include the MA number for a modern awards list page on the Commis	each award. You can find the MA number on the ssion's website.
16 Are	any of the employee classifications in the	e agreement altered by the variation?
□ Ye	S	
□ No		
-	• • • •	the following table to identify how the aried correspond to the classifications in the
Name of	f modern award:	
Classific	ation in modern award	Corresponding classification in agreement as

proposed to be varied

Attach additional tables if there is more than one modern award.

Form F23AB – Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a single-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

Your answers to questions 17-23 (inclusive) should indicate whether all or only some of the employees are affected and, if only some employees are affected, identify the groups

Improvements and reductions

(<u>i</u>)	of employees affected. Include relevant clause numbers.
		You may provide a consolidated response to questions 17–23 in a separate attachment.
17		the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of loyment that are more beneficial than under the agreement as it presently is?
	Yes	
	No	
		vered Yes – Identify how the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be more beneficial . Include relevant clause numbers.
18		the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of loyment that are less beneficial than under the agreement as it presently is?
	Yes	
	No	
•		ered Yes – Identify how the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be ess beneficial . Include relevant clause numbers.

19	employment that are more beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 15?
	Yes
	No
•	answered Yes – List the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be varied that nore beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s).
20	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied provide any entitlements that the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 15 do not provide?
	Yes
	No
	answered Yes – List the entitlements provided by the agreement as proposed to be varied that ot provided by the modern award(s).
21	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of employment that are less beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 15?
	Yes
	No
-	answered Yes – List the terms and conditions of the agreement as proposed to be varied that ess beneficial than equivalent terms and conditions in the modern award(s).

22	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied omit any entitlements that the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 15 provide?
	Yes
	No
-	answered Yes – List the entitlements provided by the modern award(s) that are omitted by greement as proposed to be varied.
23	Does the agreement as proposed to be varied contain any terms or conditions of employment different to those under the modern award(s) listed in your answer to question 15, which you have not already identified in your answers to questions 19 to 22?
	Yes
	No
If you	answered Yes – List these terms and conditions.
24	Is the employer of the view that the agreement as proposed to be varied passes the better off overall test?
	See sections 211(3)(ha), 211(4A) and 193A(3) of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u> . The Commission must give consideration to any views relating to whether the agreement as proposed to be varied passes the better off overall test that have been expressed by:
	• the employer or employers that are covered by the agreement
	the award covered employees for the agreement, and
	 the employee organisation or employee organisations that are covered by the agreement.
□ Ye	es ·
□ No	

Referring to your answers to questions 15–23, explain why the employer is of the view the agreement as proposed to be varied does or does not pass the better off overall test.								
Part 3.2 - The N	ational Employment	Standards						
See P	art 2-2, sections 211(3)	and 186(2)(c) of	the <u>Fa</u>	air Woı	rk Ac	t 2009		
to be	lational Employment St provided to all employ de for conditions that a	ees. Agreements	as pro	posed	to b	e varie	ed canno	t exclude or
contained	ises of the agreement a in the National Employ ess beneficial entitlem	ment Standards	(NES)	and w	heth	er the		
National Emplo	oyment Standard	Agreement clause(s)	less l	penefic	cial e		de or pr nent wh	
Maximum wee	kly hours			Yes		No		N/A
Requests for floarrangements	exible working			Yes		No		N/A
Offers and requ	uests for casual			Yes		No		N/A
Parental leave entitlements	and related			Yes		No		N/A
Annual leave				Yes		No		N/A
Personal/carer	's leave			Yes		No		N/A
Compassionate	e leave			Yes		No		N/A

National Employment Standard	Agreement clause(s)	less	benefi	lause exclo cial entitle to the NES	ment w	
Family and domestic violence leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Community service leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
Long service leave			Yes	□ No		N/A
<u>Public holidays</u>			Yes	□ No		N/A
Superannuation contributions			Yes	□ No		N/A
Notice of termination			Yes	□ No		N/A
Redundancy pay			Yes	□ No		N/A
Fair Work Information Statement and Casual Employment Information Statement			Yes	□ No		N/A
f you answered Yes in relation to any or	f the entitlements	s, you	may ir	iclude an e	xplanati	on below.
Part 4 – Statistical information						



This information is collected to enable the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission to comply with the statutory reporting obligations in s.653 of the Fair Work Act 2009 and to be provided to the Attorney-General's Department for inclusion in the Department's Workplace Agreements Database.

26	What is	the primai	y activity o	f the emplo	yer?
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	For example music retailer, plumbing co	ontractor, steel fabricator, etc.
27	Tick the relevant boxes for the states and proposed to be varied will be operating i	<u> </u>
	Australian Capital Territory	
	New South Wales	
	Northern Territory	
	Queensland	
	South Australia	
	Tasmania	
	Victoria	
	Western Australia	
	An external territory	
28	Of the affected employees, how many endemographic groups?	mployees are in the following
	Demographic group	Number of employees
	Female	
	Non-English speaking background	
	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	
	Disabled	
	Part-time	

Casual

Under 21 years of age

Form F23AB – Employer's declaration in support of an application under section 210 for approval of a variation of a single-enterprise agreement – employer requested on or after 6 June 2023 that employees approve the variation

Over 4	5 years of ag	e					
Signature				Date:			
	Giving false	Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.					
	A person who knowingly gives false or misleading information or knowingly produces a form misleading document in support of an application for variation of an enterprise agree is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for up to 12 months - s						

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS

s.137.1 and s.137.2 of the Criminal Code.

Information sheet

Legal or other representation

Representation is where another person (such as a family member or friend, lawyer or paid agent, or an employee of an employer organisation) speaks or acts on a person's behalf, or assists a person in certain other ways in relation to a matter before the Commission. There is no requirement to be represented at the Commission.

There are some restrictions on representation by a lawyer or paid agent.

Generally, a person must give notice to the Commission (by lodging a Form F53 – Notice that a person: (a) has a lawyer or paid agent; or (b) will seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing) and seek permission from the Commission Member dealing with the matter if they wish to have a lawyer or paid agent represent them by participating in a conference or a hearing.

Apart from participating in a conference or hearing, a person's lawyer or paid agent can represent them without permission, unless the Commission decides otherwise. For example, the lawyer or paid agent can prepare and lodge written applications, responses and submissions with the Commission, and communicate in writing with the Commission and other parties to the matter on the person's behalf.

The requirement to give notice and seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing, does not apply if the lawyer or paid agent is:

- an employee or officer of the person
- a bargaining representative that is representing the person, or
- an employee or officer of an employee or employer organisation, or an association of employers or a peak council, that is representing the person.

Rule 12(2) of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> sets out further exceptions to the requirement to give notice and seek permission.

For more information about representation by lawyers and paid agents, see section 596 of the <u>Fair Work Act 2009</u>, rules 11, 12 and 12A of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> and the Commission's <u>practice note on representation by lawyers and paid agents</u>.

Glossary of common terms

Applicant – This is the person or organisation that is making the application.

Better off overall test - The *better off overall test* requires the Commission to be satisfied, as at the time the application for approval of the variation was made, that each award covered employee, and each reasonably foreseeable employee would be better off overall under the agreement as proposed to be varied than under the relevant modern award.

Lawyer – This is a person who is admitted to the legal profession by a Supreme Court of a State or Territory.

Paid agent – In relation to a matter before the Commission, is an agent (other than a bargaining representative) who charges or receives a fee to represent a person in the matter.

Party – A party is an Applicant, a Respondent or another person or organisation involved in a matter or case that is brought to the Commission.

Respondent – The person or organisation responding to an application made by an Applicant.

Service – Serving a document means giving a copy of the document to a person or organisation, usually to the other party to the matter. You can serve a document in a number of ways, including by email, fax, express or registered post, or in person. Parts 7 and 8 of the <u>Fair Work Commission Rules 2013</u> deal with service.

Privacy

The Commission collects the information (including personal information) provided to it in this form in order to deal with the application for approval of variation to the agreement. The information will be included on the case file, and the Commission may disclose this information to the other parties to this matter and to other persons. For more details of the Commission's collection, use and disclosure of this information, please see the Privacy notice for this form, or ask for a hard copy to be provided to you.



Remove this information sheet and keep it for future reference – it contains useful information.