

Merit increments – FTC says Economy Ministry did not accommodate its submission in budget

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Fiji Teachers Confederation secretary-general Agni Deo Singh (right) speaks to the media with assistant secretary-general Paula Manumanunitoga during a press conference at the Fiji Teachers Association conference room in Suva yesterday. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU

The Fiji Teachers Confederation says the Ministry of Economy did not accommodate its submission to grant merit increments to teachers.

The confederation is made up of the Fiji Teachers Union and the Fijian Teachers Association and both unions say there was no provision in the budget for annual merit increment as stipulated in the Job Evaluation Agreement of 2017.

“This is the fourth-year teachers have been denied the upward movement to the next step they have earned,” said FTU general secretary Agni Deo Singh and Fijian Teachers Association general secretary Paula Manumanunitoga in a joint statement.

They said a teacher on Band E was at a step 1 salary of \$19,041 on August 1, 2017 “should have moved to step 4 which is \$24,412 and thereafter, the annual bonus of \$1400 plus would have been paid”.

“All are still on step 1, \$19,041. The teachers on this band are owed \$5371 in increments.

“We had made a submission to the permanent secretary for Economy to include this in the budget.”

Mr Singh and Mr Manumanunitoga say their claims for the payment of all increments for four years due plus a 10 per cent adjustment to address the consumer price index is also before the Arbitration Court.