

Health workers to meet CPA over 'package'

By CHIARA CARTER
THE Health Workers' Union (HWU) has requested an urgent meeting with the Commission of Administration over the wage package for public servants announced last week.

A mass meeting of HWU members at Community House on Monday expressed "extreme dissatisfaction" at the increases.

The meeting decided to give the authorities time to respond to the request for a meeting before taking further action.

HWU general secretary Hassan Mahomed said the

workers had rejected the increases as inadequate because the wage levels of general assistants prevented workers from making ends meet.

HWU is demanding a minimum wage of R1 500.

The Commission for Administration has refused to make the increases public, but the new minimum wage is believed to be about R500 a month.

Mahomed said workers felt the night shift allowance was "hopelessly inadequate".

He said workers were dissatisfied that certain categories of staff such as housekeepers, pharmacy assistants and clerical

workers had been excluded from the package.

Workers also viewed the preconditions attached to the long service increase as "unacceptable".

The preconditions include 20 years' unbroken service and merit evaluation.

A strike by about 4 500 HWU members crippled most Peninsula hospitals for more than two weeks last month.

When strikers returned to work, they warned they might resume the strike if the April increases did not meet their expectations.

The Public Servants' League has also expressed dissatisfaction with the package announced last week.