

This World Cup star earns less than a Maccas worker



Source: [The Daily News](#)

10 Sep 2015 By Melissa Heagney

Laura Alleway is one of Australia's sporting superstars. But take a look at her bank balance and you'd be forgiven for thinking the Matildas central defender plays for a high school team. She, like other players in the national women's football squad, is paid just \$21,000 a year by Football Federation Australia for her work with the Matildas. That's split between contracts the team members sign every six months. To try to improve their situations, the Matildas have cancelled their tour to the United States in a bid to have their pay increased to the minimum annual wage – around \$31,531.20 (before tax) – plus a few other demands.

Alleway said without a proper wage, or an ability to hold down a steady job due to her commitments with the Matildas, she has been relying on her supportive parents to survive. "I'm nearly 26 and I still live at home because I can't afford to live out of home," she said. "I do my best to save but it's extremely hard to have savings on a \$21,000 base wage." Like many of the Matildas, Alleway said she has had second jobs, but she's been "let go" several times due to her commitments to soccer. "It's not fair on the boss and it's not fair on me if I can't do the job (because I'm away)," she said.



Laura Alleway is a 26-year-old World Cup veteran, yet she still has to live with her parents to make ends meet.

She was looking at getting a job in a cafe last year – but then she saw the Matildas' schedule and knew she wouldn't be able to. "I was going to have 40 days at home out of 180 – but that's fine because that's the decision I've made to play football," she said.

"We all make sacrifices." Perhaps adding salt to the wounds are the rumours that the other top five teams in the Women's World Cup earn significantly more than the Matildas. Although the star players of the World Cup-winning USA side reportedly earn up to \$92,000, players in that team have also raised concerns over money.

Life on hold

While she isn't able to hold down a job, Alleway has been studying to be a teacher - a degree she has been undertaking for the past eight years on a part-time basis. "My degree has been very slow," she said. "Since it requires a lot of hands-on practical work (to train to be a teacher in the classroom) I need to be home four weeks in a row and I can't be." She's also had to defer her studies to meet her Matildas' commitments and is afraid that doing so may hold her back.



Alleway said she's not sure that even when she retires - which she plans to do in four years (after the next World Cup, no doubt) - that she'll have completed her degree. "I'm not even sure I'll be able to start in a job, especially if I don't have my degree. I'll be starting from behind." Call centre workers may earn more than double the wage of a member of the Matildas squad.

Wage comparison

Call centre worker: \$49,728

Butcher: \$47,106

Hairdresser: \$44,004

Bartender: \$41,808

Waiter: \$32,555

World Cup star: \$21,000

Source: [payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com) and PFA.



FFA CEO David Gallop.

Photo: Getty

The demands

Alleway said she thought the negotiations of the player's CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) would go smoothly after the hugely successful World Cup campaign. "Especially after the World Cup which was record breaking – although I felt we could have done better – coming home I thought it would be smooth sailing ... we'd see the team grow, we'd have a full (training) program and enough money to not have to take second jobs," Alleway said. "We're not asking to be on what the Socceroos are being paid – we're just asking to be treated fairly."

Protracted negotiations between the Professional Footballers Association and Football Federation Australia have meant the Matildas players have not signed a new CBA, and worse, have not been paid. Late on Thursday afternoon, FFA CEO David Gallop confirmed that 11th-hour wage negotiations with the players had failed. He said the wage increases the players were asking for were not sustainable. He added that it was "nonsense" that the Matildas have been caught up in wage claims for male players.

Can you identify the following language techniques in this article?

- Appeal to justice/fairness - calling on the principle or quality
- Analogy - compares one thing with another
- Attack/denigration - portraying someone whose view opposes one's own in a negative light
- Evidence - the use of facts or research
- Personal anecdote - a brief story about a person's life
- Statistics - reference to factual, numerical evidence

After reading through 'This World Cup star earns less than a Maccas worker' as a class, complete the following table. Use the list of language techniques to help you complete the middle column.

Quotation	What language technique is being used by the writer?	How does this position the reader to think/feel/do?
Title: 'This World Cup star earns less than a Maccas worker'		
'She, like other players in the national women's football squad, is paid just \$21,000 a year'		
"I'm nearly 26 and I still live at home because I can't afford to live out of home," she said.'		
'Wage comparison Call centre worker: \$49,728 Butcher: \$47,106 Hairdresser: \$44,004 Bartender: \$41,808 Waiter: \$32,555 World Cup star: \$21,000 Source: payscale.com and PFA.'		
"We're not asking to be on what the Socceroos are being paid – we're just asking to be treated fairly."		
'[Gallop] added that it was "nonsense" that the Matildas have been caught up in wage claims for male players.'		

