

Public Service Association of New South Wales
General Secretary: Stewart Little ♦ President: Kylie McKelvie
160 Clarence Street, Sydney
GPO Box 3365, Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone: 1300 772 679
Facsimile: 02 9262 1623
E-mail: psa@psa.asn.au
Internet: www.psa.asn.au
ABN: 83 717 214 309



In reply please quote: AK:A11/0575

6 December 2016

The Hon. Mike Baird, MP
Premier
Minister for Western Sydney
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2001

Via email: office@premier.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier,

Re: Domestic and Family Violence Leave

I am writing to seek your support for the inclusion of ten days paid domestic and family violence leave in the National Employment Standards at the upcoming Council of Australian Governments *Summit for Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children*. As well as committing to increase paid domestic and family violence leave provisions from five days to ten days for NSW public servants.

Domestic and family violence is a major social and economic issue affecting the people of NSW. In the twelve months to December 2015, there were 29,000 incidents of domestic violence related assaults in NSW. While one in four Australian women experience violence by an intimate partner (*Women NSW factsheet, 2016*).

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures estimates that approximately 800,000 women, who have or experiencing domestic and family violence, are in the paid workforce. At a time of great strain knowing that there is employment and financial security can be critical to escaping a violent and abusive relationship. Paid domestic and family violence leave will help provide that security.

For these reasons it is vital that you support the inclusion of a minimum of ten days paid domestic and family violence leave to be included in the National Employment Standards to protect the most vulnerable. As the largest employer in the country, the NSW Government is in a position to further demonstrate its commitment to supporting victims of domestic and family violence. An important step would be to increase paid provisions from five to ten days for NSW public servants, while providing greater workplace safety and support for those experiencing domestic and family violence. As such I call on the Government to endorse the attached clause to be inserted in the *Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009*, and related public sector awards and enterprise agreements.

To meet regarding this important issue please contact my office on 9220 0970.

Regards,

Stewart Little

GENERAL SECRETARY