

The Northern Daily

\$1.60 inc GST

LEADER



PROTEST: Disability workers and Public Service Association officials rallied outside Kevin Anderson's office on Tuesday. Photo: Simon McCarthy



NEWS
MERGED COUNCILS TO STAY
P4



NEWS
ICONIC IMAGES TO SHINE
P2

Workers rally

BY HALEY CRAIG

TAMWORTH disability service workers have made a public appeal for the NSW Premier to 'show some heart' amid plans to privatise the sector.

As a sea of hearts and placards converged on Sydney's Parliament House on Valentine's Day, Tamworth workers rallied outside Tamworth MP Kevin Anderson's

office in protest.

The workers appealed to the premier to ensure government care continues to be provided to the region's most vulnerable, amid a decision to privatise the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to make way for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The decision could affect about 200 workers in group homes and respite care centres in the North West, with workers to lose an estimated one third of their income if they transfer into the sector, the Public Service Association said.

PSA North West organiser, Steve Mears, said local workers could face a hefty pay cut because of the changes. "They're looking at about a \$19,700 drop in wages and that's only if we can get the government to agree to sign

off on the agreement for them to go across," he said. "What's happening at the moment is they're being treated like slaves and realistically sold across to the private sector and have been given no option of saying 'no', other than walking out of the door on a Friday. "They're not high paid people, they're carrying a certificate three or four qualification in disabilities and going into a sector

where currently there is no emphasis on those qualifications."

Mr Mears said the privatisation was expected to occur over the next 18 months. "There isn't an unending pool of non-government workers and the concern is, if these guys are going to lose a substantial amount of money they may leave the sector," he said.

Continued P2



Vitara RT-S from \$22,990 driveaway
*Picture for illustration purposes only

TAMWORTH CITY PRESTIGE SUZUKI

1/5 Bellmore Street, Tamworth | 6767 3777 | www.tamworthcityprestige.com
Lic No MD42534 Lic No MDVRL50174

TAMWORTH CBD OFFICE SPACE TO LEASE

Flexible lease arrangements
www.officestamworth.com.au
(02) 6766 1073

- HIGH SPEED INTERNET
- FULLY FURNISHED
- COMPLIMENTARY PARKING
- FULL ADMIN SUPPORT

Centrepoint

NEWS



ICONIC: Gallery director Bridget Guthrie and staff member Brian Bernays with one of the artworks on exhibition. Photo: Gareth Gardner 140217GGA03

RESTORING POWER A PRIORITY

ESSENTIAL Energy crews from Tamworth, Moree and Quirindi are helping to restore power to homes and businesses in bushfire affected parts of the state. Approximately 70 percent of the bushfire affected area has now been flown by helicopter and over 200 power poles have been destroyed and will require replacing. In addition, it's expected that a large number of power poles still standing will also require replacing due to fire damage. For more information customers can call 13 20 80.

Iconic images to shine

STRIKE WAS 'ABHORRENT'

ART
MORE than 80 iconic Australian photographs from some of the nation's best known artists will be hosted in two exhibitions at the Tamworth Regional Gallery.

One of the exhibitions, *Contemporising the Modern: Photography from the Russell Mills Collection*, features more than 50 works from Max Dupain and Olive Cotton right through to contemporary work by Bill Henson and Narelle Autio.

Russell Mills began collecting photography in the 1990s. Over an 18-year period he collected major images by recognised Australian photographers.

Also well represented in the Mills collection is the work of Max Dupain including the iconic *Sunbaker*, which has become synonymous with the advent of modernism in Australian Photography.

The second exhibition *'Unfinished Business'* is al-

so now also on display and reveals the visual stories of 30 Australian Indigenous persons with disability by photographer Belinda Mason and film makers Knierim Brothers.

Each participant's story is complex and intertwined with Australia's history, which has resulted in today's high rates of disability in Australian Indigenous communities.

The exhibition was developed in close collaboration

with Indigenous participants.

The exhibition also commemorates the ninth Anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's First People.

Tamworth Regional Gallery Director Bridget Guthrie encouraged local photography and history enthusiasts to come along to the Gallery during February to view the exhibitions.

"We are lucky to be able to host these special exhibi-

tions during February, one marking iconic Australia photographs and one marking the stories of 30 Indigenous persons with a disability," she said.

"The exhibitions have both arrived at the Gallery and residents can visit from tomorrow to take in the amazing photographs and the significant stories behind the lens."

Both exhibitions are available for viewing now at the Tamworth Regional Gallery.

From P1

Mr Anderson described the association's industrial action as "abhorrent". "Many people with disability rely on their support workers to get out of bed, to eat, to take medication, and for personal care. It is not fair to leave vulnerable people with reduced or non-existent care," he said. "The planned strike has forced the NSW Government to put plans in place to mitigate against the risk of harm to the people we support."

INSIDE TODAY

News	1-7	TV Guide	13-15
National	8	Comics	17
World	9	Weather	18
Opinion	10	Classifieds	19-21
People and Places	11	Sport	22-28
Community Notices	12		

WEATHER

TODAY	TOMORROW
Mostly sunny	Sunny
Minc: 18°C Max: 27°C	Minc: 18°C Max: 27°C

CONTACTS

The Northern Daily Leader is published six days a week and can be read online seven days a week at www.northerndailyleader.com.au. We welcome your inquiries on the platforms below.

General inquiries: (02) 6768 1200
 Email: mail.nld@fairfaxmedia.com.au
 Post/Voice: PO Box 525, Tamworth, NSW 2340; Suite 2, 27 Bourke Street, Tamworth.

LOTTO

Or Lotto Draw 1200
 Winning numbers: 7, 39, 45, 33, 1, 30, 9
 Supplementaries: 28 and 14
 Division 1: Jackpotted
 Division 2: \$34,270.40
 Division 3: \$6,065.20
 Division 4: \$428.40
 Division 5: \$52.35
 Division 6: \$26.05
 Division 7: \$16.40

The Northern Daily LEADER

The Northern Daily Leader is printed and published by Fairfax Media, ABN 20000014700 ACN 000014700 at Suite 2, 27 Bourke Street, Tamworth. Telephone 6768 1200 \$1.60 weekdays, \$2 Saturday. Freight surcharge extra. Registered by Australia Post Publication No P245673/00014.

Your future - your choice

TRAINING

J O B L I N K plus

- ✓ Short & long courses
- ✓ Individualised packages
- ✓ Smart & Skilled subsidised training

6764 6858
joblinkplus.com.au

* Eligibility requirements apply

More than just a Bowling Club

Check Out Our \$10 Schnitzels
 Gluten Free Available
 (Monday & Tuesday Only)

Twilight Bowls Thursday Nights from 6.30pm. All Welcome!

The Friendly Club
 20-26 Bligh Street Ph. 02 6766 1987
www.northtambowlingclub.com.au