

PSA MEDIA RELEASE

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Union demands Out of Home Care report removes vulnerable kids from motels

The release on Wednesday 2 September of the Transferring out-of-home care to non-government organisations report by the NSW Acting Auditor-General, Tony Whitfield needs to address some serious shortfalls says the Public Service Association (PSA).

Thus far the PSA, the union which covers workers in the Department of Family and Community Services, views the privatisation as a major failure and all too often a tragedy for both vulnerable children and the broader community.

The PSA has written to Family and Community Services Minister, Brad Hazzard calling for an inquiry into the outsourcing.

“Tony Whitfield’s report must address the major shortcomings in the outsourcing process that led to our call for an inquiry,” said Acting PSA General Secretary, Steve Turner.

“The fact is available Out of Home Care placements in the non-government sector have actually shrunk since outsourcing began despite increasing numbers of children requiring care.”

“There is simply not the capacity - despite massive injections of Government funding - within the non-government sector to adequately address this critical area.”

“How can children being shunted from one short term carer to another, living in motels and Aboriginal kids being placed out of country with non-Aboriginal carers be in any way a measure of success?”