



PSA MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 1 October 2015

Carers Vote to Strike Action over Crisis in Disability Sector.

Carers of some of the Hunter and Newcastle area's most vulnerable people, those with disabilities, have voted to go on strike over the crisis in the sector.

This is not action they take lightly, but they feel compelled to stand up for the hundreds of clients they take care of in the Hunter.

At a meeting in Newcastle today, Public Service Association NSW (PSA) members voted to strike for 4 hours on 4 November, 2015.

This is in response to the Baird Government's chronic refusal to recognize the crisis it's privatization of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is creating.

Without a public provider (ADHC) for people with disabilities there is no safety net or specialized care for those with costly, high level needs.

PSA Acting General Secretary Steve Turner said 14,500 people working for ADHC will be forced to move over to the private sector or have their jobs terminated.

"These people aren't being given any choice about whether they wish to stay in the public sector, stay with their service or go across with the new provider," he said.

"The people accessing ADHC services are not being given any choice."

"But these people are quite often voiceless, and so our members have had enough, and they are going to speak out for them by going on strike."

"Just to reassure the community, they are going to do it in a way that doesn't affect the clients."

- About 200 PSA members working in ADHC in the Hunter Newcastle area expected to take action.
- Many work in group homes over a 24 hour shift cycle.
- This 24 hour care provided to around 150 clients living in Group Homes in the district.
- ADHC is the most experienced, biggest service provider in NSW.

Comment: Steve Turner, PSA Acting General Secretary, 0418 675 564.

Media: Ali Donaldson, Mountain Media, 0411 202 005.