

Highlights of the PSA's Campaign for Public Disability Services

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In 2016, much of the hard work the PSA had done over the last three years came to fruition catapulting our *A Real Choice: Public Disability Services* campaign into the next phase. In addition to the action at Mike Baird's office and our political strategy to force the discussion in Parliament, we have focussed resources in key areas of the campaign such as the discriminatory transfer package; the lack of consultation and engaging different audiences.

The PSA has always maintained that the substandard transfer package for ADHC workers could be discriminatory. **The PSA has engaged with an employment and discrimination lawyer & identified a number of strategies** to progress this important part of the campaign.

You can read our most recent bulletin on this [HERE](#).

To **increase media around the impact of the privatisation on women**, the PSA brought together a number of women PSA members from ADHC to meet with Rachel Browne from the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH). This resulted in two fantastic articles in the SMH which can be accessed [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

A great photo of the day can be accessed [HERE](#).

In March, the PSA lodged a dispute in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) over lack of consultation about the transfer and **legally enforceable protections for members**. We were in court twice with members attending with us to show the IRC how strongly they felt about the way they've been treated. You can see pictures [HERE](#).

We are awaiting legal advice to support our next steps in the fight for genuine consultation through the IRC. We will update members on this case in the coming weeks.

2016 started off with a **YouTube video we commissioned through Friendly Jordies**. The video was viewed by over 165 thousand people. It was overwhelmingly supported by the public with 8000+ shares and 1200+ likes. You can watch the video [HERE](#).

2015

In 2015, the PSA took your fight directly to voters in key seats during the NSW election. The PSA's *Strategy and Policy (S&P)* Directorate organised doorknocking in key seats, supporting participating members with volunteer head office staff; briefings, material and refreshments. The PSA also produced ADHC flyers and corflutes to highlight the privatisation during the election. We coordinated volunteers to display our disability privatisation corflutes; letterbox PSA flyers and lobby local MPs **to sign our pledge against ADHC privatisation.**

The PSA wrote to petition signatories in key seats to urge them to consider the issue of privatisation when voting. A billboard on the Pacific Highway near Newcastle was also paid for to highlight the issues in the NDIS trial site at a time when NSW voters could take meaningful action to oppose the privatisation.

These actions all helped to shift two of our target seats away from the pro-privatisation candidates and raised the political profile of our campaign.

Following this, PSA General Secretary Anne Gardiner personally wrote to all PSA members calling on those who receive ADHC services to contact the PSA and support the campaign. You can read that email [HERE](#).

In doing this, we identified carers right across NSW concerned about the privatisation and what it meant for them and their loved ones. The PSA FACS Team Organisers called and spoke with these members to discuss the privatisation, **hear their stories and gather information on what actions they could take to help fight the privatisation.**

Both the PSA FACS Team and Regional Organisers attended many of the parent forums run by FACS to hand out PSA material and gather the names of concerned parents. This work and the **invaluable information we gathered has formed the foundation of our coalition building strategy.**

A program of rolling strikes started in the second half of the year. In November, FACS wrote to inform staff of the transfer package that will be imposed on their workforce without consultation or negotiation. **This triggered our state-wide strike on 3 December 2016** when members across NSW walked off the job to protest against the arrogance of a Government that would not even meet with affected staff. You can access the resources the PSA developed for strike day [HERE](#).

2014

Back in early 2014, the PSA significantly increased resources for the campaign. A team of Organisers were dedicated to the campaign and our Educators held training and planning days with members and delegates to ensure members' views drove the campaign focus.

It was in this phase that members identified that their ADHC colleagues were unaware of the privatisation and the impact it would have on them. It was agreed that **PSA resources had to first be focussed on raising awareness about this issue.**

To support this strategy, the PSA developed the *Defending Disability Services Campaign kit* to assist delegates and members. You can access the campaign kit [HERE](#).

PSA regional and metropolitan Organisers across the state then supported & organised localised member campaign initiatives which built the required momentum for the November 13 rally at Parliament House. This rally drew over 1000 people and launched our *Real Choice* campaign in the public arena with print, digital and TV coverage of the rally dominating the news.

At the rally, **more than 25,000 signatures from people right across NSW were handed to Greens MP John Kaye**, a long time PSA member and champion of public services who sadly passed away earlier this year.

You can see just some of the related coverage from the rally [HERE](#).

PSA General Secretary Anne Gardiner and Assistant General Secretary Steve Turner led the member centred lobbying of elected MPs from across the state about the privatisation. This resulted in over **50 politicians signing the *Union Pledge*** to retain public disability services.

You can see photos [HERE](#) and a list of the MPs and 2014 state election candidates who signed the pledge [HERE](#).

By the end of 2014, community awareness of, and support for, the campaign was growing stronger. People with disability and their families began to see through the spin of the pro-privatisation campaign.

2013

Despite the then O'Farrell Government's attempt to sneak the NDIS Enabling legislation through Parliament, the PSA dragged its secret privatisation agenda into the open by highlighting the Government's use of the NDIS as a Trojan horse for privatisation. **The PSA made it clear we would fight against privatisation.** You can read the full bulletin [HERE](#).

In October 2013, **your union lobbied hard to stop this appalling bill from being passed.** We wrote to PSA members calling on them to Stop the Bill & demand a better deal for NSW Disability Services.

We wrote to members highlighting that the NSW Government was using the NDIS as a Trojan horse to slip through privatisation.

We called on PSA members to lobby the Government by contacting Minister John Ajaka telling him

1. It's time the NSW Government talked to your union about the future of disability services;
2. Not to proceed with the Bill in its current form.

You can read the full bulletin [HERE](#).

The PSA then hosted an important Community Forum in the Hunter trial site on 4 December 2013 at Panthers Newcastle. This forum influenced the development of our campaign against the privatisation of ADHC.

In November, the PSA updated members on the impact the Enabling Act would have on them. This update **began the long hard work of identifying activists for the campaign**. You can read our bulletin on this [HERE](#).

Get involved - the fight against privatisation is not over

If you want to get active in the PSA's *A Real Choice Campaign* please contact your organiser at FACSOrganising@psa.asn.au

What more can you do?

Build power on the ground for the campaign! Speak to non-members about joining the PSA. Use this document to show colleagues, family and friends what the campaign has done so far.

When you encourage and assist a colleague to join your union online, we'll say a collective thanks by giving you a **\$75 gift card** from Giftpay.com.au.

You may choose to spend this at a range of major retailers, including Coles, Woolworths, JB HiFi, Myer, David Jones, Priceline, iTunes, Big W, and Ticketmaster.

Or you can donate the value of your reward directly to charity.

The more members we have, the better we can defend the vital services you provide.

Every new member means added strength and the benefits of PSA/CPSU membership for your colleague.

Follow these easy steps, and build PSA/CPSU power in your workplace now!

1. **Share with your colleague your pride in the PSA using the [Proud to be Union](#) FAQ sheet.**
2. **Help your colleague fill in their online application, adding your name and membership number under the heading 'How did you hear about us'*. You can use [this guide](#) to assist with this.**

Your colleague can securely join online, for [as little as \\$3.40 per week](#), by clicking [HERE](#).

If you and your colleague are still financial members after three months, your reward will be emailed to you on the first Monday of the following month.

*This must be done at the time your colleague submits their application online. Full terms and conditions can be found [HERE](#).

Yet more reasons to be **Proud to be PSA**.