

PSA media release

Tuesday 19 September 2017



Govt spends tens of millions on consultants, tries to block pay rise for disability workers

The Public Service Association (PSA) has slammed the \$10 million rise in the budget for consultants in one public sector agency alone while the Government cuts jobs and argues against a 2.5% pay rise for disability care workers.

Figures tabled in Parliament around the State Budget revealed the Department of Planning and Environment's 2017-18 budget for consultants is \$11 million, a massive increase from \$1.1 million in 2016-17.

Consultancy costs for the Department of Premier and Cabinet will leap to \$10.8 million, from \$3.5 million while TAFE has earmarked \$5.9 million for consultants up from \$1.4 million the previous year.

“The Treasurer can defend the expenditure on the basis the Government is undertaking “unprecedented and complicated reforms” but what he doesn’t say is that process involves the wholesale sell off of public services in NSW such as the Land Titles Registry, disability and Out of Home Care,” said Acting PSA General Secretary, Troy Wright.

“The savage irony is that many of these Departments are spending money on consultants to manage the after-effects of employees being replaced with consultants.

“Rather than properly equipping the NSW public sector to be the best it can be and utilizing the skills, experience and institutional knowledge it contains, the Berejiklian Government is simply hiring an additional parallel workforce and then complaining about the cost and cutting jobs and services.

“This is a Government that forced this union into court to face an army of barristers in an attempt to block a 2.5% pay rise for people who tend to the daily needs of some of the most disadvantaged in our society.

“This is a Government that cuts critical firefighting roles in the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the lead up to what the experts say will be horror fire season.

“This is a Government that sells off the Land Titles Registry, the model for the world that has an enormous bearing on the state’s economy, to private overseas interests.

“What we are watching is the destruction of the largest workforce in the country and in its place will be a sea of unregulated private operators out for a fast buck and workers on short term contracts with no long term experience or institutional knowledge”.