

CHRIS MINNS MP

NSW LABOR LEADER

7 February 2023

Stewart Little
General Secretary
Public Service Association of NSW
160 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Little

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Minns', written over the typed name 'Dear Mr Little'.

On behalf of the entire NSW Labor Party I want to start by extending our appreciation to PSA members for the incredible work they have done over the recent years in helping our community respond to natural disasters and the COVID pandemic in recent years. While those in the labour movement have always known of the essential work PSA members have done, the community now recognises the crucial role they play.

We also appreciate and acknowledge that the demands of service have changed, and these shortages have caused enormous concern and stress and Labor is aware of the added impacts labour hire and contractors have had on this too.

Please see below for responses to your questions in relation to the positions we will be taking to the 2023 NSW Election

1. **What is the view of your party on the privatisation of publicly-owned assets and services? Are you able to commit to no privatisation of assets or services during the 2023-2027 term?**

Labor will end the privatisation of our utilities following the failed twelve-year experiment of the Liberals and Nationals who have sold off over \$93 billion worth of Government assets

2. **Our members have been subject to a unilateral statutory wages cap since 2011, which at 2.5% is now sees our members wages lag grossly behind inflation. Are you in favour of abolishing this wages cap, and if so what would you replace it with?**

The Liberal National Government's wages cap has been a handbrake on productivity. It has held back wages – both in the public and private sectors and it has left industrial negotiations up to the lawyers.

Labor will scrap this broken system and we will abolish the wages cap. We will replace it with a better system. One that helps us deliver fair wages, productivity growth, and better public services to the people of NSW.

3. **The NSW Industrial Relations Commission has been significantly altered during the last three terms of Government, with many of its powers being revoked and its composition appointed in a manner that it is arguable it has lost its independence. What would you do to restore the neutrality and status of the longest-standing industrial commission in the country?**

Labor is aware that many are concerned by the current status and operations of the Industrial Relations Commission. A Minns Labor government would continue our dialogue with stakeholders as well as working with our counterparts in the Federal Government as they continue to rollout industrial relations reforms across Australia.

4. **PSA members employed as school support staff have unacceptable levels of insecure work – up to 73% are in temporary employment, the majority of whom are working women. What measures would your party put forward to resolve this issue?**

School administrative support staff (SAS staff) currently face unacceptably high rates of casualisation.

Over 50% of SAS staff are currently in temporary work, with the percentage increasing to over 70% for School Learning Support Officers. Labor believes this needs to change.

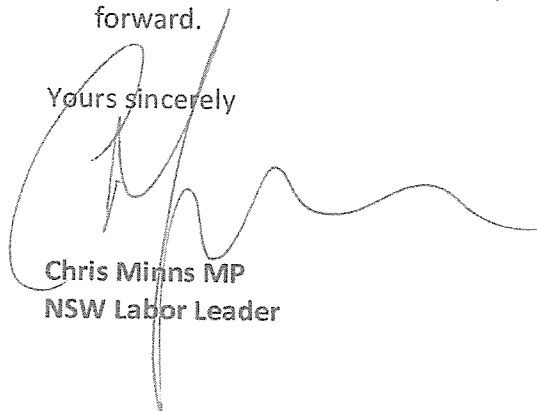
That's why an elected Minns Labor Government will convert at least 5,000 SAS staff positions from temporary to permanent.

Labor wants to see the majority of Student Learning Support Officers and other SAS staff in permanent positions so they can continue their important work in NSW schools.

5. **What is your position on repealing and replacing the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*(NSW)?**

The last statutory review of the Government Sector Employment Act was conducted in 2020 and Labor is committed to reviewing it in 2023 if elected in March so that all stakeholders can have their say about what shape the GSE Act needs to take moving forward.

Yours sincerely



Chris Minns MP
NSW Labor Leader