Public Service Association of NSW
General Secretary Stewart Little President Nicole Jess
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23 October 2026

The Hon Ben Franklin MLC
President of the Legislative Council

The Hon Greg Piper MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

C/- Senior Manager, Workplace Relations & Support
People, Property and Security Branch
Department of Parliamentary Services
Enabling the Parliament, serving New South Wales
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attn: Mr Mark Webb
Chief Executive
Department of Parliamentary Services Mark.Webb@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Presiding Officers,

Re: Safety and Security of Electorate Office, Ministerial and Parliamentary Staff

The Public Service Association of NSW (PSA) is the union with industrial coverage of electorate officers and ministerial staff. Our members have contacted the PSA asking that their concerns regarding workplace safety and security be raised with the NSW Parliament through appropriate consultation under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011.* We therefore wish to raise the issue of safety and security of Electorate Office, Ministerial and Parliamentary staff with you as a representative of the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU).

The horrific attack on the Federal Member for Indi, Helen Haines, has highlighted the seriousness and growing level of concern about the safety of politicians and their staff. This further heightens the need for us to represent the concerns of our membership expressed in responses to a recent PSA NSW survey on occupational violence. The legitimate concerns of our members require review of the management of safety risks associated with their workplaces, as per clause 38 of the WHS Regulations.

Comments expressed in the survey and in follow up interviews with our members include concerns about a lack of training in safety procedures that staff should follow if confronted by a dangerous situation, such as a constituent who enters an electorate office armed with a dangerous weapon as recently occurred in the electorate office of Western Australian local government minister Hannah Beazley. Staff are also particularly concerned about their safety in mobile electorate offices, community stalls, while doorknocking in the community and when entering or leaving their electorate office to walk to a nearby car park. Some of the comments expressed from PSA members in our survey included the following:

- Person on the phone threatened to come to the office with a gun. Protests at the front of our office. Disgruntled ministerial client was at the back door and tried to gain entry.
- People come in and yell at us all the time. Anyone that doesn't like the government thinks they can come in and harass staff.
- I was issued with a threat by a constituent over the phone that they were going to “bash my head in”. The constituent then attended the office and proceeded to bang on the door.

We write to you as the Presiding Officer to seek an urgent review of workplace risk assessments and safety procedures to ensure the safety and security of electorate staff, and by extension, the members of parliament that they serve. The PSA is advocating for stronger workplace systems and risk assessment for electorate staff across NSW, including in remote and isolated workplaces. We request serious consideration be given to the broad requirements for field work, the high public profile associated with electorate office staff and their work and the difficulties staff face in any risk assessment of members of the public.

The PSA proposes that a joint committee be formed including presiding officers or their delegates, an appointed expert convenor and PSA representatives to:

- Establish an appropriate protocol for consultation.
- Establish a framework for risk assessment of existing sites, safety procedures and training to ensure the safety of staff.
- A thorough site-by-site audit and risk assessment conducted for all locations across the state.
- Establish a framework to modify existing premises and the leasing of any new premises to ensure the adequate safety of staff.
- Development of safety plans for staff to protect their physical safety and psychosocial health.

PSA Members employed under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 (NSW) are particularly vulnerable workers because they do not have access to the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* and standard workplace protections or avenues of redress if they speak out about their concerns. The PSA NSW will therefore provide ongoing support to assist in the above processes.

Please contact PSA Senior Industrial Officer, Greg Shaw, at gshaw@psa.asn.au to progress this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Stewart Little
General Secretary

Cc Senior Manager, Workplace Relations & Support **Ian.mackinlay@parliament.nsw.gov.au**