Public Service Association of NSW
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17 November 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 and Support
People, Property and Security Branch
Department of Parliamentary Services
6 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

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

Dear Presiding Officers,

Re: Safety Dispute under 102A of the WHS Act

The Public Service Association of NSW (PSA) is the only union with constitutional coverage of electorate staff (including Legislative Assembly and Council), Ministerial Staff, Ministerial Drivers, Special Constables, Departmental Liaison Officers, and Parliamentary Staff.

We note your correspondence of 10 November with disappointment.

Members say "Enough is Enough!"

We once again highlight the seriousness of the issues raised with you concerning the escalation of incidents at our members workplaces.

We highlight the media reports of a homophobic attack on the office of the Member for Sydney, and the Member's comment about the continued abuse his office receives. We also note that unfortunately this occurred on the same day as the good news that Dr Helen Haines was released from hospital following the attack on her outside her office.

Members are asking the PSA about what forms of industrial action they can take to make their work safe. In order to progress these matters we intend to seek the assistance of the Industrial Relations Commission and the WHS dispute jurisdiction urgently.

Urgent and Forensic Action Required

Your correspondence and the safety briefing of the 26 October, unfortunately fails to address the urgency or the seriousness of experiences and genuine safety concerns that our members have who work in electorate offices. Several of these experiences have been forwarded to you in our correspondence of 23 October and subsequently by PSA staff in the email of 29 October.

We have a range of workers who work in electorate offices from time to time. These workers include public servants, Ministerial and also MOPS employees, however, electorate officers spend more time in these offices. These workplaces and "mobile offices", require a higher level of safety that what is occurring.

We have conveyed to the Government and the Parliament repeatedly, the inadequacies of the MOPS Act for MOPS employees, not being able to effectively enforce their own rights.

This makes these workers vulnerable and hence why we sought to resolve these WHS issues through the mechanisms that we proposed in our correspondence of 23 October 2026.

It was even admitted in your safety briefing that whilst CCTV was implemented in most electorate officers, it was not implemented in several officers because the member did not want it installed. This was without reference to any risk assessment basis or alternative security controls let alone holding formal consultation with the workers affected.

Whilst there are references to special constables and police, neither are often readily available for electorate staff in regional offices. This is an inadequate response control, given the risks identified by recent events.

These are some of the examples of why the PSA has identified current risk management as inadequate at present.

Jurisdiction

Our members are looking at industrial action due to the urgency and severity of the recent incidents, and the slow response by their employer. However we have advised them that we will attempt to gain an outcome for them through the provisions of the WHS Act and resolve these issues with you collaboratively before resorting to industrial action.

To avoid unnecessary further time delays by your lawyers at the Industrial Relations Commission, we would like to remind you that the exemption under the WHS Act under Section 252 of the WHS Act 2011 does not exempt presiding officers from their responsibilities as employers.

We would also expect you to live up to your responsibilities as model litigants within the Industrial Relations system in NSW and engage with the substance of the dispute raised, rather than attempt to delay proceedings with legalistic or jurisdictional arguments based on the draconian MOPS Act.

Consultation

As stated previously, there are no WHS consultative mechanisms that have electorate staff represented on the committee, nor elected WHS Representatives who work in electorate offices regularly.

The Broderick Committee has a limited scope, and less resources, attention and response to issues since its inception, but does not meet the requirements of WHS Act.

Whilst there are briefings from time to time, these are not under the structures of the WHS Act and do not comply with the consultative provisions of the Act.

Dispute

While the PSA is looking to file its dispute imminently, we remain willing to participate should you reconsider your position.

Please contact PSA Senior Industrial Officer Greg Shaw at gshaw@psa.asn.au in response.

Yours faithfully,



Stewart Little
General Secretary