



Australian Services Union
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Media Release

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Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

GOVERNMENT "HEALTHY STATE" PLAN FAILS WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

A key Queensland union has criticised the Premier's newly announced "Healthy State" plan as failing support staff working in the system. Premier Anna Bligh today announced her plan to make a "Healthy State" with the admirable aim to reduce public hospital lists to the shortest in Australia.

However, the Australian Services Union, representing thousands of administrative workers in Queensland Hospitals, today criticised the Premier's plan as being big on imagery, but short on the detail of how health workers could be convinced that things are changing.

ASU Assistant Secretary Mary-Anne O'Neill today said "At a time when the hospital system is under pressure to fulfil the needs of the community and provide a good health system, Queensland Health announced their not so "healthy" Enterprise Bargaining pay offer to hospital support staff last Friday."

Queensland Health have offered a total package of 4% per annum for 3 years based on the acceptance of a raft of concessions which would particularly impact upon admin workers' security and workloads, such as a right to contract out work without agreement, and the removal of requirements to fill or replace positions when vacancies arise.

"It's particularly upsetting to administrative staff that the offer from Queensland Health sets out to demolish job security and remove any commitment to replace staff. We keep being told that the culture in Queensland Health will change and that the work our members do will be properly valued, but management have failed to address even basic concerns raised by support staff during negotiations. Instead, they want to entrench bad management by allowing them to simply contract out work that they fail to organise properly, and push even more work onto less people. These short-sighted demands would result in a drop in service delivery, not the vast improvements sought by the Premier", said Mary-Anne.

Australian Services Union Delegates from across the state are meeting by telephone hook up today to discuss Queensland Health's pay offer.

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