

PSA AND SPSF (SA BRANCH) MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

The PSA and CPSU (SPSF) SA Branch councils met on March 23rd 2009.

Key issues discussed during the meetings included:

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

The General Secretary provided a comprehensive report on the Bill. The first formal meeting between the PSA and Minister Weatherill took place on 16 March. Major concerns remain. These include the power of Chief Executives to terminate employment, the inability of the Commissioner for Public Employment to initiate investigations into agency practices, the replacement of current grievance review panels with a single Commissioner and the possibility that Public Sector workers participation in community activities unrelated to their employment will transgress the Code of Conduct, leaving employees liable to discipline.

The PSA continues to pursue these and other issues with members of the Upper House.

Debate in the Upper House is expected to commence this afternoon and evening. Councillors reported that many members have expressed their opposition to the Bill and support the changes proposed by the Opposition and non- government Members of the Legislative Council.

SHARED SERVICES

Councillors reported instances where members continue to experience difficulties around Shared Services. Of particular concern are delays in payments of allowances and penalties and long waiting times when contacting the Shared Services office by telephone.