

Real people suffer cuts

YOUR editorial "Time to slim our flabby public service" (*The Advertiser*, yesterday), which claims that tenure must be ended in an effort to cut middle-level tier public servants, fails in its understanding of the real impact of job cuts.

A survey conducted by the Australian Institute for Social Research earlier this year clearly identified that cuts to public sector jobs, at all levels, were having a significant impact on the quality and level of service delivery to the community, with children, families and the maintenance of publicly funded infrastructure most greatly affected.

Indeed, respondents cited the devastating impact on childcare service provision, the inability to adequately respond to community needs and the erosion of community aged care as among the most distressing elements of job cuts.

It was a survey that clearly exposed the real pain of job cuts, as told by those at the coalface - many of whom are doing considerable unpaid overtime - not by those who would conveniently have us believe that so-called backroom jobs can be cut without impact.

Yesterday's *Advertiser* also reported on the impact the rising cost of living is having on South Australian families and the

increased demand on support services, with the number of high-needs housing clients placed by Housing SA having increased by 15 per cent from 4500 to 5234, while the number in stress rose from 26,905 to 29,474 over the year.

Ensuring SA families have access to the services they need and deserve should be a priority for any premier and state government; having the best possible and well-equipped workforce to provide those services is vital.

Our workers need and deserve the security and resources to deliver quality outcomes for South Australians.

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