



Public Service Association of SA Inc

Community and Public Sector Union · SA Branch · SPSF Group

6 July 2006

Hon Jay Weatherill LLB, BEc, GDLP, MP
Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business & Public Sector Management
GPO Box 2269
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister,

Re: Budget Spending Review; Priorities and Efficiencies in the SA State Public Sector

The PSA has commissioned three pieces of research which are attached for your information.

The University of South Australia School of Management was commissioned to undertake a study of skills shortages in the South Australian Public Sector and the impact of these shortages. This was in response to concerns raised by members about the impact of skills shortages, in particular on staff and service delivery.

The University of Adelaide was commissioned to prepare a report assessing the likely impact of public sector employment reductions in South Australia. This was in direct response to the then Opposition Leader Rob Kerin's announcement to slash 4,000 public sector positions during the recent election campaign. Importantly this research demonstrated this would have the effect of increasing unemployment levels and would exacerbate future problems associated with the ageing of the SA public sector workforce, with no apparent economic or financial rationale for the cuts.

The University of Newcastle School of Economics, Politics & Tourism was commissioned to examine the role of the public sector in driving economic advancement with the State as a whole. In effect, the attached report and its recommendations concentrate on the persistence of unemployment and underemployment in South Australia, the distribution of unemployment across regions, and the clear presence of skills shortages.

As the Government is considering issues relating to Public Sector Reform and the Budget Spending Review announced by yourself, the PSA trusts you will find these documents useful and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these reports.

These reports have been provided to the Treasurer due to the overlapping interest of the subject matter.

Yours sincerely

JAN MCMAHON
GENERAL SECRETARY

Enc:

"Skills Shortages in the South Australian Public Sector – What is to be done?", University of South Australia
"Assessing the Likely Impact of the Proposed Public Sector Employment Reductions in South Australia", The University of Adelaide
"Report on the potential for efficiency gains and reform of the Public Sector", University of Newcastle