



Public Service Association of SA

GPO Box 2170, Adelaide, SA 5001

122 Pirie Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

Phone: (08) 8205 3200

enquiries@psaofsa.asn.au

www.psaofsa.asn.au

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The Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

By email: premier@sa.gov.au

Dear Premier

Re: Parliamentary committee on privatisation

I write to you on behalf of the Public Service Association (PSA) and our members, further to our previous discussions and correspondence regarding privatisation in South Australia.

The PSA has been campaigning for decades against the privatisation of public services, and for public services to be retained under public control for the benefit of the community rather than being sold off for private profits.

The PSA has a long and proud history of campaigning for well-funded public services to support our community. We will continue our relentless campaign for well-resourced, high quality and accessible public services for all South Australians and remain strongly opposed to privatisation. Our research and experience has shown that this is an issue which is not only very important to our members, but is widely and deeply felt throughout the broader community.

The PSA welcomed the commitments made by the ALP in relation to privatisation in the lead-up to the 2022 state election. The public sector has a significant role to play in addressing inequality and ensuring all South Australians receive the level of service and support they need and deserve.

The PSA writes seeking detail in relation to the ALP's commitment that: *"Labor will establish a parliamentary committee that will undertake in-depth reviews of contracts for existing outsourced and privatised services"*.

The dark veil of secrecy over privatisations of public assets and services raises serious questions relating to, for example, the analysis and mitigation of risks; accountability; quality and reliability of service provision; value for money; the value of contracts; the impact on the state budget; the role of the Auditor General; potential or actual conflicts of interests; whether or not there are any public or service guarantees. We strongly believe that the committee proposed by your Party is long overdue, and will go a long way to providing transparency into the failures of current privatisations.

As you are aware, the PSA is the principal public sector union in South Australia and our members work in a broad range of roles across the entire South Australian public sector. Our members have first-hand experience of the failures of many currently outsourced, contracted and privatised services. We believe that once established, priority areas for the committee to review should include, for example:

- Prison operations (Adelaide Remand Centre and Mount Gambier)
- Prisoner transport and hospital escorts
- Road maintenance
- Facilities management
- Financial counselling
- Youth community service order program
- Outsourced residential care services
- Public housing

During the past 12 months, the PSA has raised specific issues and examples with many of your Ministerial colleagues relevant to their own portfolios. We look forward to having a more formal process to raise issues and properly scrutinise outsourced and privatised services, to focus on the true costs of privatisations, community members' rights to transparency, and what is genuinely in the public interest.

The PSA seeks information from you about the process and timeframes for establishing the parliamentary committee on privatisation as described in your election commitments.

The PSA looks forward to supporting this process and providing valuable information to this committee. It is in the best interests of all South Australians that public service provision remains the responsibility of government, ensuring South Australians are supported by comprehensive, high quality public services.

Yours sincerely



Natasha Brown
General Secretary