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## **More driving assessors are needed says union**

The public should not be forced to shop around for licensing centres with shorter practical driving assessment waiting lists according to the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association.

Some applicants are travelling from northern metropolitan areas to Mandurah in a bid to short-cut long waiting times.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said this was unacceptable and a symptom of the Barnett Government not dealing with the real issue of appointing more assessors to meet increased demand.

An estimated 1000 people a week are moving to Western Australia placing more pressure on the under-staffed and under-resourced public sector.

“It is not surprising that more people from the metropolitan area are trying to target Department of Transport centres such as in Mandurah to avoid the unacceptable waiting lists,” Ms Walkington said.

“The real issue is there are not enough assessors at metropolitan branches to process the tests.

“For instance the Morley centre had seven assessors in May 2008 and that number has slowly been whittled away to two at the moment.”

Ms Walkington said the numbers didn’t add up.

“At a time when the Barnett Government has introduced cutbacks across the board the public sector is expected to process a bigger workload and service a growing population.

“There hasn’t been a declining demand for services, it has been quite the opposite with waiting lists ballooning out in some places.

“We call on the Barnett Government to remove FTE (Full Time Equivalent) ceilings so agencies are freed up to deliver services that are needed.”

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