

MEDIA ALERT

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Tuesday, 9 October 2018

Privatisation of TAB

Today's announcement regarding the privatisation of TAB has come as a frustration to public sector workers.

The Minister's statement has significant gaps, with questions still to be answered around simulated racing products, such as Trackside, and job security.

With the state government indicating that legislation will be introduced next week, CPSU/CSA Assistant Secretary Rikki Hendon says the decision is disappointing.

"Today's announcement runs counter to WA Labor's promise to not privatise public services, which is extremely disappointing.

"In excess of 500 employees currently work for Racing and Wagering WA and a number of these positions are either directly or indirectly impacted by TAB functions.

"We have not been made aware of how many positions and employees the decision to privatise the TAB could affect, and whether the proposed legislation will support these jobs remaining in WA.

"We received no communication about this decision prior to learning about it in the media this afternoon.

"Public sector employees should not be finding out about major changes like the privatisation of their work in the media.

"It is also unclear from today's statement whether the proposed legislation will enable simulated racing products to be offered in TAB outlets and pubs in Western Australia.

"In WA, simulated racing products are currently only available within Crown's Burswood Casino, and we're concerned that its extension to other locations will have implications for the incidence of problem gambling in our state.

"The public interest, not profit, should come first in any decision about the future of public services in Western Australia," she said.