

MEDIA ALERT

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Tuesday, 9 October 2018

CPSU/CSA STATEMENT ON LEAVE LIABILITY

To hear Rikki Hendon on 720ABC Drive click here: <https://clyp.it/zq5r3xan>

As reported in The West Australian, more than 13,000 public sector workers currently have accrued at least two years' worth of annual leave.

For workers with at least eight weeks leave owing the liability amount is almost \$290million.

CPSU/CSA Assistant Secretary Rikki Hendon says the management of leave in the public sector is not being dealt with adequately.

"The leave liability in the WA public sector hasn't just skyrocketed overnight.

"It is the cumulative result of increased community demand for services, staff cutbacks and other workforce practices which have been perpetuated under both the current Labor and former Liberal.

"Members tell us, time and time again, they can't take leave because there is no backfill available and not enough staff to cover their work while they are away.

"A recent survey of our members revealed that an enormous 82.5% are not backfilled whilst on leave.

"This leaves managers reluctant to grant leave, and employees reluctant to apply it in fear the services they deliver will suffer in their absence.

"Taking leave is important for the physical, mental and social wellbeing of working people, and we are deeply concerned that people in the public sector feel unable to take the time off they need to recharge.

"New policies may have been put in place, but public sector leave liability will never be fully addressed when there is inadequate staffing levels at agencies," she said.