

# MEDIA ALERT

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## Public sector still doing the heavy lifting on budget repair

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

Callous cuts to education, 3000 job losses, a penny-pinching decision to transition to a Federal NDIS and a massive \$600,000 to scope the privatisation of Landgate rounds out a disappointing year for the McGowan Government.

Community Public Sector Union and Civil Service Association Acting Branch Secretary Rikki Hendon said the Government seemed determined to continue on the same path as the previous government by cutting the public sector, whilst putting insufficient effort into developing other budget solutions.

“The failed attempts to implement a gold royalty are particularly disappointing. Western Australians want the Government to be able to address the economic situation it finds itself in and new revenue measures are a critical element of sustainable budget repair, she said.

“We think Western Australians want everyone to do their bit to contribute to repairing the state economy and we encourage the Government to use its electoral mandate to fix the mess to pursue the gold royalty increase.”

### NDIS

“The Mid-Year review clarifies the Government’s penny pinching rationale on the transition to the Federal NDIS. CPSU/CSA members delivering disability services to Western Australians have campaigned for a WA NDIS to ensure the successful local coordination model is not broken down.”

“It’s a shame that the face to face, local services that meant all the difference to Western Australians is being axed by a short term interest in making budget savings which will not yield long term savings or results for people with disabilities.”

### LANDGATE

The Government has also announced today that it will spend more than half a million dollars on a feasibility study to justify the sale of Landgate.

“This broken promise will see a significant amount of money spent on a scoping process to sell a business that employs more than 500 people and provides services to government, business and the community.

“It’s outrageous that WA Labor would go back on their promise to stop privatisation and even consider selling Landgate.”

“The Government is placing over half a million dollars in the hands of private consultants to conduct the scoping project at the very time they are carving the heart out of education in WA in the name of budget repair.”

“Education is essential for hope and opportunity for young Western Australians. It is shameful that the McGowan Government is paying to privatise Landgate and making sweeping cuts to education at the same time.”

#### A NEW PRISON

The Mid-Year Review contains measures to build capacity in the State’s prison system. The CPSU/CSA has long advocated for prevention measures to be funded.

“The Government should be investing in education, prevention and diversion services designed and delivered by the public sector workforce to mitigate against the high costs associated with reactive services such as prisons and children in state care.”

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#### **Available for comment**

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