



General Media Enquires

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Vehicle examinations should be run by government

All vehicle licensing inspections in the metropolitan area should be handled by Department of Transport staff to improve accountability and reduce chances of corruption according to the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association.

The union is aware that a mechanical business north of the river has been suspended from conducting vehicle assessments.

The official message from the Department of Transport is that the business is unable to conduct vehicle assessments at the moment due to “a contractual matter”.

CPSU/CSA branch secretary Toni Walkington said the union would be following the situation closely.

“We have always maintained that privatisation of these services increases the risk of corruption and that they should remain in government hands,” Ms Walkington said.

“Keeping licensing and vehicle assessment services in government hands means all operations and services can be audited and scrutinised more closely than they would be in the private sector.

“Private-run companies can hide behind ‘commercial-in-confidence’ agreements that the public can never question.”

A few years ago a Department of Transport employee was jailed for acting corruptly and all vehicles the public servant had approved were recalled and re-examined.

“People need a similar assurance that when an employee of a private company is found to have acted corruptly they will be dealt with appropriately.

“We know the public sector system works and there is greater risk when you introduce third parties and different standards into this picture.”

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In September 2012 it was revealed that up to 650 truck drivers in Victoria were given heavy vehicle licences in exchange for cash and without testing by an employee of a private company, which Ms Walkington said was another example of why private companies shouldn't carry out certain public services.

FOR COMMENT:

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