



General Media Enquires

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Service offered by Community Social Trainers is incomparable

Disability Services Minister Helen Morton has been reminded that her decision to abolish 34 Community Social Trainers from the Disability Services Commission is a bad one.

The former staff members joined Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association staff on Friday to present nearly 600 postcards to the minister's key staff at her Maddington electorate office.

Most staff took redundancy packages in July after originally being told of their fate last November, leaving more than 250 families out in the cold with no other private or public provider able to replicate the service.

The Community Social Trainers helped adults with intellectual disabilities develop skills to perform daily tasks most people take for granted such as cooking, shopping and catching public transport.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said it was important the minister understood there was no similar service offered in the non-government sector.

"We have already seen this is not the case as there is nothing similar in the non-government sector and the agency has had to call in staff from group homes on short-term contracts to backfill the void.

"The Community Social Trainers were specialised in their field, and unlike other people in the non-government sector, they teach people to be independent, rather than dependent."

The postcards were accepted by the minister's chief of staff.

"We are making one last appeal to the minister in the hope that she may better understand the impact of the decision to abolish the service."

Ms Walkington said the staff who lost their jobs felt like they were abandoning their clients, having spent up to 30 years working with some families.

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“This is clearly another example of the government walking away from its responsibility to vulnerable people in our community as they continue to strip vital resources out of the public service,” Ms Walkington said.

FOR COMMENT:

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