



General Media Enquires

P: (08) 9323 3800

(request Publicity Office)

F: (08) 9323 3878

E: publicity@cpsuca.org

Friday June 8, 2012

Housing staff deserve better treatment

More needs to be done to look after the welfare of Department of Housing staff who go out into the field to inspect properties according to the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association.

Housing Service Officers are handling more anti-social behaviour cases, dealing with ex-prisoners, and being confronted by pornographic images and clandestine drug laboratories.

Traditionally the officers have done inspections on their own but many need more support.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said in most cases staff didn't ask management if they could go in pairs because it would be frowned upon.

She said it also created a workload issue with the support person not able to process their jobs.

"If the community knew some of the conditions staff members had to endure on their own they would be outraged," Ms Walkington said.

"We know their family members and friends are outraged.

"Every day they are going out and are afraid but they don't feel they can do the inspections in pairs as a security measure."

Ms Walkington said staff, some of them young women in their 20s, should not have to feel vulnerable and threatened when carrying out their daily duties.

She said some staff were not even aware of the occupational health and safety requirements and were only told to report incidents to police.

"Nothing is done internally because staff are not told to fill out incident reports.

"We hear about these health and safety concerns but nothing has been officially documented in most cases.

WE MAKE
WORK LIFE
BETTER

“Staff who are on contracts instead of permanent positions avoid speaking up because they are worried their contracts will not be renewed.”

FOR COMMENT:

Toni Walkington
CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary
08 9323 3800

FOR INFORMATION:

Darren O’Dea
CPSU/CSA Media Liaison Officer
M: 0421 934 794
P: (08) 9323 3855
E: darren.odea@cpsucsa.org

WE MAKE
WORK LIFE
BETTER