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When will the Health Minister fix dental system?

The Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association has accused Health Minister Kim Hames of hypocrisy as it continues a campaign to repair WA's decaying public dental health system.

Dr Hames claims the union has implemented scare tactics as it strives to improve better working conditions for dental health staff that include dentists, dental therapists, dental clinic assistants and dental technicians.

He said the union should allow negotiations to take their course but CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said the Minister needed to step in and speed things up.

When Dr Hames was in Opposition in 2008 he challenged then Health Minister Jim McGinty to negotiate seriously with dental health service workers and lift their conditions and salaries into the 21st Century.

At the time the Dawesville MLA said the government had been in power for seven years and was aware of the problem, yet there was no solution.

Ms Walkington said despite the change in government the same dental issues still existed.

"The waiting lists are incredibly long at some centres and employees can be treated much better in the private sector.

"We had to resume the campaign as there has been no movement by the current Minister Mr Hames and the Barnett Government.

"He is now working to a June deadline yet we are not confident that will be met, we should have had an offer a long time ago to make that deadline."

Ms Walkington said it was not scaremongering, but dealing with real issues.

"The fact is the system needs fixing and Dr Hames has the power to change that."

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The union recently called on more than 16,000 residents in the Dawesville electorate to voice their disapproval about lengthy delays to the Health Minister.

FOR COMMENT:

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