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General Media Enquires

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Privatisation model is not working

Hopefully the Barnett Government has a get-out clause in the \$200million housing maintenance contract it has in place with private company Transfield.

That is the view of the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association in light of revelations that the Department of Housing has received invoices for work not done on public housing stock.

CPSU/CSA Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said the Barnett Government's privatisation model across a number of public sector agencies, including Housing, clearly had not worked.

"They need to step away from the current arrangement as it is inefficient, costly and public housing tenants are worse off from the old model," Ms Walkington said.

"We are seeing only emergency work being done and the maintenance schedule slipping further behind.

"You have to ask how successful the privatisation model has been when the money for non-urgent work has already run out.

"That is little comfort for tenants who have every right to expect their property should be in an acceptable condition."

When the union raised the issue with the government on previous occasions it fell on deaf ears.

"Over the last couple of weeks we have called 380 Housing employees to validate the issues and talking to them after hours so they feel free to speak.

"The minister can't brush aside these claims any longer with more people coming forward saying it was a major problem.

"He needs to respond and we need to make sure there is no retribution on employees for speaking out."

Ms Walkington questioned why Housing staff had to produce photographic evidence to the contractor to prove work hadn't been done.

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She said the public sector was more than capable of reclaiming the maintenance program if the government provided the appropriate resources for it to function properly.

FOR COMMENT:

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