

UNITED VOICE

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Secretary Carolyn Smith
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17 October 2016

The Hon Colin Barnett MLA
Premier of Western Australia
1 Parliament Place
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Premier

During negotiations for the *WA Health – United Voice – Hospital Support Workers Industrial Agreement 2015* United Voice members sought a commitment from you that your Government would not seek to further privatise the public health system and that their jobs would be protected from outsourcing. United Voice members were ultimately successful in obtaining that commitment from you, but it took a hard fought campaign and industrial action. In your meeting with myself and United Voice delegates on 19th August and your subsequent letter of 26 August 2015 you made a commitment that there would be no further privatisation or contracting out during the term of the Agreement (which expires in August 2017).

Given there is an election in March 2017 and hospital privatisation will be an important issue for our members and to the WA public, I now write to seek your governments position post August 2017. We believe you should make another commitment that if your government is re-elected in March 2017 there will be no further privatisation of work in public hospitals for the term of government.

Further, United Voice members have become increasingly concerned about the prevalence of casual employment in public hospitals. At some sites, casuals represent over one third of the total workforce. This is too many. It isn't necessary and it isn't good for employees and it can affect the quality of care for patients. In addition to your commitment around privatisation, United Voice members are seeking a commitment from you that your Government will address the casualisation of the workforce.

I look forward to receiving a response from you by no later than Monday 31 October 2016.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Smith
Secretary
United Voice WA