



Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-631452/JH

Ms Carolyn Smith
Secretary
United Voice - WA Branch
54 Cheriton Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms *Carolyn* Smith,

I refer to your letter of 17 October 2016.

You will recall that when we met in August 2015, I provided an undertaking that the Government I lead would not pursue any new outsourcing of work undertaken in public hospitals by hospital support workers during the life of the WA Health – United Voice – Hospital Support Workers Industrial Agreement 2015 (Agreement).

That commitment was reflected by the retention last year in your member's Agreement of a "Contracting Out" clause, which has been and will be honoured for the life of the Agreement.

You will also recall me stating that while no contracting out was planned or would occur for hospital support workers during the life of the Agreement, I would not extend my commitment beyond the life of the Agreement.

The negotiations for the replacement Agreement is a matter for the Department of Health and United Voice, and this will occur under whichever Government is in power following the March 2017 election. I would make the point, however, that the Western Australian public health system and its public patients, as well as Western Australian taxpayers, have benefited hugely from the partnerships that have been negotiated over the past decade with private hospitals and private service providers. Many members of your union work within relevant hospitals and are an integral part of this success story.

With regard to casual workers in public hospitals, I believe your concerns are sufficiently allayed by the Review of Casual Employment clause in the current Agreement. The Department of Health has shown that it is committed to working with United Voice to regularly review the use of casual employment at each hospital in order to identify opportunities for permanent employment.

The Department of Health has acknowledged its preference is for the employment of staff on regular and continuing full time or part time permanent employment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Barnett', is written in a cursive style.

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER

16 NOV 2016