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21 December 2018

The Hon. Corey Wingard MP
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services
Level 2, 45 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister

Re: Department for Correctional Services Chief Executive

Over the past weeks Public Service Association (PSA) Correctional Officer Members at prison sites around the state passed a motion in respect to the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) Chief Executive, David Brown. The motion passed reads as follows:

This meeting of Public Service Association Members at this Prison continues to have no confidence in the DCS Chief Executive David Brown and his senior executive team due to:

- *The Chief Executive's serious failure to consult with prison officers and the PSA on proposed major changes to DCS workers' work conditions as required by the enterprise agreement.*
- *The Chief Executive's continued failure to accurately advise his Minister and the government of the risks to Officer, community and prisoner safety arising from the privatisation of SA prisons.*
- *The Chief Executive's continued failure to seek alternatives for savings from the employees at the coal face and failure to provide relevant costings and analysis supporting his proposed privatisation.*
- *The Chief Executive's continued failure to ensure the safe secure running of all SA Prisons due to prisoners still being inappropriately downgraded in security classifications and placed in inappropriate lower security prisons.*

This is not an action our dedicated members take lightly. PSA Correctional Officer Members take great pride in undertaking the tough job they are employed to do on behalf of all South Australians, and they refuse to stand by and watch as the Chief Executive continues down this ill-informed path. Our Members question the information and advice he and his senior executives are supplying you and the Government based on the decisions announced in the State Budget and the actions of the department since that time.

Our members are under no illusions as to where the agendas to privatise the ARC and create the overall 'Better Prisons' program were formed, starting with the DCS Chief Executive and his senior executives.

PSA members have been attempting to get clarity over a range of issues which coincide with the delivery of the State Budget in September this year. Despite numerous letters to the Chief Executive, PSA Members are still yet to be provided any credible or relevant information about the decision to privatise the Adelaide Remand Centre.

Members have also not been engaged by your department in any meaningful consultation about the decision to privatise the ARC, nor have any input in the so-called 'Better Prisons' agenda. The consultation thus far appears to be a program based on simply advising our members what is going to happen rather than genuinely seeking the input and contributions of members so that any programs have a real world opportunity to work.

Our members are outraged at the proposed casualisation of the workforce which, if implemented, will increase the risk to our members' safety, along with contributing to the insecure work epidemic which negatively affects workers' lives outside of their employment. It also goes against the principles described in both the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment's Determination 1: and the South Australian Modern Public Sector Enterprise Agreement: Salaried 2017, that is, '*Ongoing employment is the primary form of public sector employment*'.

Should you require further clarification on this matter please contact PSA Manager, Policy and Strategy Austin White by phone on 8205 3295 or by email to austin.white@cpsu.asn.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NBrown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Natasha Brown
Acting General Secretary