

TAMMY FRANKS.

Member of Legislative Council

Nev Kitchin
General Secretary, PSA
122 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Monday, 29 January 2018

Dear Mr Kitchin,

RE: Pre-election Responses to Questions for the Public Sector Review magazine

Thank you for writing to the Australian Greens SA requesting our response to your questions for the Public Sector Review magazine. While I note that the original letter was addressed to my colleague Mark Parnell MLC, his office has passed on your correspondence to me as I am the Greens (SA) spokesperson for the Public Sector and Industrial Relations.

The Greens (SA) acknowledge the important work the PSA does year round in the sector and the substantial effort undertaken to compile information from politicians and political parties for the benefit and information of your members. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort your organisation puts into advocating for reform on these vital issues, as well as the opportunity to communicate some of our policies and priorities to your members.

1. Will you support ongoing employment as the primary form of employment for the Public Sector? Will you reduce the level of insecure and contract employment in the Public Sector?

Absolutely. The Greens believe that workplace laws should let people have a secure job, a good balance between working, personal and family life, and protect people's rights at work. The Greens have always been strong supporters of the Public Service. As part of our policy on Jobs and Prosperity we want to reduce forced casualisation of the workforce and other insecure forms of employment, and believe that the Government needs to lead by example by offering secure employment. The Greens have and will always support more secure work, underpinned by guarantees such as regular and predictable hours and pay, access to paid leave, and other entitlements. You can read our full policy at greens.org.au/policies/sa/jobs-and-prosperity, and read more at greens.org.au/workplace.

2. Will your party commit to not privatising, outsourcing or commercialising any Public Sector assets and services?

Yes. Not only are we against privatising, outsourcing, or commercialising public assets - we want to take back those that have been privatised. We want to protect the public interest from sell-offs, which lead to higher prices, job cuts, attacks on workers' pay and conditions, declining services, and reduce revenue to state governments. A strong public sector is a prerequisite for a healthy civil society and that some services, because of community service obligations (e.g. providing services at reduced rates to the disadvantaged, aged, or sick, and guaranteeing services to rural and remote communities) and their essential nature, should be undertaken by public sector agencies. Important public services should not be leased or sold to private interests. We reject the privatisation of essential government services such as water, electricity, transport, roads and communication.

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3. Job losses and new functions have resulted in severe workload increases. How will your party resource the Public Sector to counter this? Will you invest in the Public Sector by establishing funding for areas that address the future needs and challenges for our state?

Obviously the Greens aren't in government in this state, though these days we're only ever one seat away! But we do hold the balance of power in the upper house and we have made that count, particularly when it comes to standing up for the rights of workers. Our track record is strong and we've stood against cuts to the public sector, and advocate for a strong taxation base that takes on the big end of town to pay their fair share because our priority is to ensure that essential services are there when they're needed.

4. What does your party see as the role of the Public Sector in the economy?

We view the Public Sector as being an essential part not only of the economy, but of civil society. We need a strong public sector to provide secure work but also quality, essential services. We have consistently stood against government cuts to the Public Sector.

5. Is your party committed to maintaining the state industrial jurisdiction? Does your party support collective bargaining, and recognise the legitimate right of members to be represented by their union?

The Greens have always supported the right of all workers to collectively bargain and to be represented by their union. We want to ensure that everyone has the right to freely choose to join or not join a union that represents them in the workplace, and we want to ensure the right of entry for union officials into the workplace of members who they represent. We support workplace laws that recognise the right to strike or withhold labour, to collectively bargain, and to organise. Working people, including their representatives, have the right to be involved in decisions about their work, free of intimidation. Free, independent and democratic unions are an essential pillar of a civil society. You can read more at greens.org.au/policies/employment-workplace-relations

6. What will your party do to consult genuinely with the PSA about proposals under consideration that impact upon PSA members?

As you know, we have an excellent working relationship with PSA. We appreciate their perspective on issues and actively seek out their views where appropriate. If I am re-elected then I look forward to continuing that relationship, and my office can always be contacted by members who have questions or concerns about proposals that impact upon PSA members.

7. What is your party's commitment to investing in our State's future through the employment of trainees and graduates in the Public Sector?

We know that providing employment and development opportunities for young people is key to ensuring that they can stay in South Australia, and these opportunities can be provided through employing trainees and graduates in the Public Sector. The Greens absolutely are committed to ensuring that we have trainee and graduate positions and programs in the Public Sector.

I hope this letter provides you and your members with some answers as to where The Greens (SA) stand on issues relating to the Public Sector. If you or your members have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact my office at franks.office@parliament.sa.gov.au or on 8237 9296.

Kind regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Franks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'F'.

Tammy Franks MLC

Greens Member of the SA Legislative Council
Lead Greens Candidate at the SA Election