



MEDIA RELEASE

Public Service Association of SA Inc

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DEPARTURE OF HIGHLY SKILLED STAFF WILL DAMAGE OUR WORLD CLASS PUBLIC PATHOLOGY SERVICE

More than 100 skilled and experienced staff are finishing up at SA Pathology today as part of the state government's savage budget cuts.

PSA Acting General Secretary Natasha Brown said the departure today of more than 100 highly skilled staff, including medical scientists, pathologists, technical officers, nurses, operation staff and more will have a direct impact on the quality of public pathology and health care services in the state.

"These individuals have provided an incredibly high level of expertise for many years. Their departure will inevitably reduce the quality of service provided to the community by SA Pathology. The knowledge these staff have, and their ability to diagnose in their specialist fields, will be lost and will not be replaced."

"There simply has not been the investment and succession planning required to ensure that this knowledge and experience will not be completely lost. The intellectual property built up over decades could not possibly have been transferred in the few weeks duration of the VSP process."

"The money being paid by the government to KordaMentha to advise cuts like this would be much better spent on improving public health services rather undermining them," said Brown.

"Steven Marshall and his government have a moral and social responsibility to protect and improve public health services. All the evidence from interstate and overseas shows that privatised pathology is an abject failure. But rather than take heed, the government has brought in a razor gang to justify the sell-off of public assets funded by South Australian taxpayers."

"Staff in SA Pathology are already telling us that budget cuts have led to increased workload and will result in poorer service going forward. The industry-leading status so many parts of the state's pathology service will be dramatically affected as many of the people behind the leading edge depart."

"The Marshall government is playing politics with our health. It's perfectly clear that the cuts to SA Pathology are about setting it up for privatisation. Staff across the service are telling us their workload is already stretched to the max; these budget cuts won't make the service more efficient, they'll simply make it more attractive to a private buyer, and that's the long-term aim here," she said.

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