



JOB CUTS = SERVICE CUTS



February 21, 2006

NSW PUBLIC SECTOR IS DISAPPEARING FAST

The NSW public sector had shrunk by one third since 1980, according to an analysis released today by the Public Service Association of NSW.

The analysis, comparing the size of the public service with the size of the population, finds that the public sector has reduced from 60 public service workers per 1,000 citizens in 1980 to just 40 per citizen today.

The reduction, coupled with increased demands from an ageing population, is placing extreme stress on the delivery of public services, NSW PSA assistant general secretary Steve Turner said today.

It also explains why we are seeing increased stress levels and resultant claims within the public service.

“While both sides of politics talk about job cuts, the reality is that the relative size of the public sector is much smaller than it was 25 years ago,” Mr Turner said.

“Some jobs, such as school cleaners have been privatised; others outsourced; others simply no longer exist – but the common theme is that services have been compromised.

“The PSA is appealing to both sides of politics to shift their focus from cutting jobs, to repairing public services – and beginning a serious debate about the investment needed to properly serve an ageing population.

“Our members believe the public service is at a ‘tipping point’ where any further job cuts will inevitably lead to cuts in service delivery.

“That is why the PSA is publicly campaigning against job cuts and will direct its members to refuse to carry out work of colleagues whose jobs are cut.”

For a copy of the PSA analysis go to www.psa.asn.au

Mr Turner will be available for media comment behind State Parliament at 10.30am today.

For media comment call Steve Turner on 0418 675564 or Rachael Osman-Chin on 0414 873291