

## **WA Libs attack Public service – a taste of things to come?**

Unions in Western Australia are mounting a campaign to defend the public sector and its workers against an all out assault by the Liberal Government. UnionsWA Secretary Simone McGurk said the Barnett Government had finally shown its true colours.

"Colin Barnett has masqueraded as a benign, middle-of-the-road, non-threatening Premier, but his Government has now shown its true colours, Ms McGurk said.

"Today, the Barnett Government has been revealed as a radical economic rationalist outfit, who are more concerned with providing their mates in business with opportunities than they are with the welfare of their own employees and the important services they provide the community.

"Make no mistake, the recommendations in today's report signal that the Barnett Government wants to see our nurses, teachers, police officers, child protection workers and other service providers phased out of the public sector and replaced by business people."

According to the WA Community and Public Sector Union a Bill before WA parliament is designed to end staff permanency. Public Sector workers could be sacked with four weeks' notice and redeployment opportunities within the public sector will be curtailed. Public sector workers will be able to be easily transferred into the private sector with greatly expanded contracting out and privatisation provisions. Further, the Award safety net will be gutted. Read more [here](#)

Given the possibility of a conservative government in NSW next year, what can be done?

It's time the Better Services campaign was ramped up instead of being relatively hidden. Delegates have been questioning the direction and the continued functioning of the PSA [Better Services campaign](#) which is aimed at countering attacks on the public sector in NSW. A campaign launch in Newcastle has been announced but little has been done to establish all the local Better Services groups. Members are urged to actively join this campaign and make sure it becomes real in your area – make it more than just a web site. <http://www.betterstate.org.au/>