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MEDIA RELEASE

Job and Funding Cuts Hurt All Queenslanders The Services Union Welcomes Funding For Job Assistance by Federal Government

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said frontline community services cuts will hurt all Queenslanders.

The Services Union represents members who have either lost their job in the public service or who work in frontline community services who have lost their jobs due to severe funding cuts by the Queensland Government.

The Services Union welcomes today's announcement by Federal Employment Minister Bill Shorten of an \$850,000 job assistance package to help Queenslanders who have lost their job in the cuts.

Ms Nelson said it is clear however the Queensland Government has a very unusual idea of what the word 'frontline' means.

"We have seen the slashing of funding from frontline community services such as The Sisters Inside Program at Townsville Correctional Centre, Queensland Association for Healthy Communities and the Tenants' Union of Queensland with thousands more community sector workers who could lose their jobs before the end of the year."

"Why attack the frontline 'invisible' workers who help people in all our communities, regional or urban?"

"These are the workers for example who counsel victims of sexual abuse and violence including children, help women who have been incarcerated readjust to society and who work in accommodation services with the homeless and disabilities."

"These are vital frontline community services that thousands of people throughout the State will no longer have access to nor will they have the support of highly skilled workers at these organisations."

"What's worse is that half of these workers will not have access to redundancy payments like public sector workers as they are excluded under the National Employment Standards (NES) because their employer has less than 15 employees."

"The question remains how far Campbell Newman and his government will go in hurting Queenslanders and the community services they need?"

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