

# MEDIA RELEASE

## The Services Union Welcomes Announcement by the Gillard Government Which Further Protects Queensland's Community Services Workers

26 NOVEMBER 2012

Queensland's Community Services Industry, which has been felt the wrath of the Newman Government's funding attacks over the last few months, have something to celebrate about today.

Several thousand Community Services workers were covered by the 2009 Queensland Pay Equity decision which was the basis for the historic Fair Work Australia (FWA) Equal Remuneration case earlier this year.

These workers' wages are set by what is known as a Transitional Pay Equity Order (TPEO), and now the Gillard Government has provided them with financial certainty for their futures, by guaranteeing them the same annual wage increases as all other Award-reliant workers.

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Bill Shorten and the Minister for Community Services, Julie Collins announced that these workers will be entitled to pay increases from 1 December 2012, that reflect the Queensland minimum wage increases awarded in 2010, 2011 and 2012, via the State Wage Case.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said this announcement was extremely welcomed, although highlights the urgent need for increased Government funding and the reversal of the spate of funding cuts by the Newman Government to Queensland's Community Services.

"Due to the nature of these workers particular industrial instruments, they are not entitled to the FWA wage increases because FWA does not have the power to adjust the TEPO rates," Ms Nelson said.

"However, the Gillard Government has ensured that not only will these workers receive pay increases from 1 December 2012, they will also be entitled to future FWA annual wage adjustments, along with every minimum wage and Award-reliant employee in Australia."

"In providing these new regulations, it further cements the commitment and esteem the Gillard Government has towards the extraordinarily hard work done in Queensland's vital frontline Community Services."

"These are workers who for instance who support our homeless, counsel victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, support people with disabilities and work with youth who may be in crisis."

"Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Newman Government, which has been intent on stripping the funding from frontline Community Services, something they promised Queenslanders' pre-election they would not do," Ms Nelson said.

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