

MEDIA RELEASE

Whitsunday Community Workers Sending Out An S.O.S To Protect Essential Services – Community Awareness Event - Saturday 16 February 2013 – Airlie Beach Foreshore.

Social and Community Services Sector (SACS) Workers in the Whitsundays region are holding a community awareness event "Save Our SACS," Saturday 16 February to alert the region about funding and job cuts to essential local frontline community services.

Due to the State Government's axing of around \$600,000 in funding from not-for-profit organisations that help the most vulnerable people in the Whitsundays community, already, up to 10 permanent jobs have been lost and doors have had to close.

SACS professionals in the region, who are now trying hard to keep up with the demand for the delivery of services, are fearful this is just the beginning!

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said the State Government made an election promise to protect frontline community services which they broke immediately.

"Ripping over half a million to essential community services in the Whitsundays hurts the economy, it hurts local jobs and it hurts the most vulnerable members of the region who rely on these services," Ms Thomas said.

"We have seen funding cuts to neighbourhood centres; the Collinsville Community Association, Whitsundays Community Centre, the Proserpine Community Centre emergency relief and the Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service. The Bowen Neighbourhood Centre has also had funds cut."

"We have also seen job losses at Health Promotions Connections, Girudala Health Services and the Bowen Neighbourhood Centre. We have also seen the doors finally close at the Bowen Tenancy and Housing Information Service," Ms Thomas said.

"There is a great flow on effect because diminishing a service in one area means increased demand in another, which is detrimental to the whole regional community."

Members of the community are encouraged to get involved and send out an SOS to their local MP – Mr Jason Costigan – Member for Whitsunday to let him and the State Government know that by reducing our community services you are doing a disservice to our community.

Community Awareness Event
SENDING OUT AN S.O.S - Save Our SACS in The Whitsundays
DATE: Saturday 16 February 2013
TIME: From 10:30am
WHERE: Airlie Beach Foreshore, Adjacent to the Saturday Markets –
Opposite Capers

GROUND FLOOR
32 PEEL STREET
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

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AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL
AND SERVICES UNION
QUEENSLAND (SERVICES
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ADMINISTRATIVE) BRANCH
ABN 86 351 665 653

QUEENSLAND SERVICES,
INDUSTRIAL UNION OF
EMPLOYEES
ABN 13 540 483 194

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

SECRETARY:
Kathrine Nelson
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas



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