

28 JUNE 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

FSG Stands For: Failure, Stupidity and Greed! The Workers' Sentiment! Members Meeting – Friday, 30 June 2018 @11:00am 184 Brisbane Road, Arundel.

The Services Union has had its dispute with FSG heard in the Fair Work Commission (FWC) this afternoon with Commissioner Simpson.

The union was able to broker an agreement between FSG and CPL to defer the termination of employment for those FSG employees who deliver and support frontline disability services.

FSG and CPL are currently finalising the detail of this agreement and communicating this arrangement with staff over the next 24 hours.

The Services Union has asked FSG to apply the same principles to all incoming service providers to allow a smooth transition of workforce and service delivery.

At the conference FSG disclosed that approximately 500 service support jobs like human resources, marketing and finance, that are not deemed frontline will cease as at 30 June 2018.

The Union filed the dispute late last week due to the lack of consultation given by FSG to its workforce about going into voluntary administration.

Executive President of The Services Union, Jennifer Thomas said FSG management this week has continued to play games.

"Firstly, FSG sought to have the dispute adjourned so they didn't have to answer any of the questions we had for them, but fortunately this request was knocked back by the FWC," Ms Thomas said.

"Secondly, rather than turning up to the FWC like we did, FSG resorted to telephoning in for the hearing which made it apparent they had no real desire to clean up their mess."

"This says a great deal about the complete lack of respect FSG management has for its clients and for frontline workers," Ms Thomas said.

This week, The Services Union has been working in collaboration with new service providers and the Queensland Government to ensure, there is the smoothest transition as possible for workers and clients.

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"The State Government can be applauded for stepping in to ensure a business as usual approach to this dire situation," Ms Thomas said.

"We are working closely with the new providers and we are negotiating the best ways forward for everybody caught up in this mess due to FSG's financial mismanagement."

"What we also know is that there will be a process workers may have to go through to get their entitlements due to FSG being in administration and we will assist our members in getting everything they are entitled to."

"What is also becoming very apparent by media reports is that FSG management may have been empire building through asset buying as well as ensuring that their executives were well looked after through exorbitant salaries."

"With all this in mind, our Union urges the State Government to further investigate what has really gone on at FSG because on the surface it really does not look good."

"We agree with the sentiments of the workforce that FSG now stands for 'Failure, Stupidity and Greed'," Ms Thomas said.

Workers and supporters will be holding a members meeting tomorrow, Friday, 29 June 2018 at 11:00am at the FSG Office at 184 Brisbane Road, Arundel.

Workers are still providing services and this is not a rally or stop work as members are working in the best interests of clients.

Jennifer Thomas will be addressing the members and providing an update to all FSG staff regarding the FWC Conference and the outcome of her discussions with the State Government and new Services Providers.

All Media is invited to attend.