



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch www.asuvic.asn.au
HACSU Health and Community Services Union www.hacsu.asn.au

Monday 9 November, 2009

“The Social and Community Services Workers Union”

ASU/HACSU members and general public to rally on the steps of parliament house tomorrow

Workers from Community Sector Organisations and the Disability Sector will rally tomorrow against the complete failure of the Brumby Government to provide adequate funding to deal with significant workforce issues for employees in these sectors in Victoria.

Members of the Australian Services Union and the Health and Community Services Union are campaigning for higher wages, Fair Employment Standards and for a Portability of Long Service Leave Scheme to be implemented.

ASU Assistant Secretary Lisa Darmanin believes the time has come to deliver improved pay and conditions to workers employed in Community Sector Organisations, especially considering the, at times, life-saving service they provide to some of the most disadvantaged citizens in our communities.

HACSU State Secretary Lloyd Williams has also called on the Government to deliver on its promise of a Portability of Long Service Leave Scheme which would see long service leave move with an employee when they changed from job to job in the sector.

“Recruitment and retention issues are endemic in Community Sector Organisations,” said State Secretary Lloyd Williams. “Unless there are significant pay increases and a Portability of Long Service Leave Scheme the sector will continue to bleed workers.”

Ms Darmanin also welcomed the Federal government’s recent agreement to make the SACS Award the first equal remuneration Test Case under its new Fair Work Australia legislation. “What we need now is for the Brumby Government to agree to properly fund the outcome – that’s where the real test will be. We are holding this rally to urge the Brumby government to commit to funding the sector appropriately.”

RESPECT RALLY DETAILS

WHERE: ASSEMBLING AT PARLIAMENT GARDENS (CNR ALBERT AND NICHOLSON STS, MELBOURNE)
WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 11AM

For more info, go to <http://www.asuvic.asn.au/655404.html>

-ENDS-

For further information:

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Media comments also available from front-line workers:

Shane Collier, 0400 574 230 (case manager at a support services organisation in the Gippsland area)
Pia Cerveri, 0423 717 468 (social worker and manager of a homelessness service in inner Melbourne)
Matilda Langley, 0413 058 449 (neighbourhood house networker, in the inner west)

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