

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **New TV ad slams State Government services cuts**

UnionsWA today launched a new 30 second television commercial slamming the effects the introduction of WorkChoices-style changes to Western Australian workplaces would have on the delivery of health, education, policing and other public services in WA.

The commercial was launched on YouTube, Facebook and the campaign web site [www.noworkchoicesinwa.com](http://www.noworkchoicesinwa.com) ahead of its official launch on metropolitan and regional television this Sunday.

The State Government is planning changes to Western Australia's workplace laws, with Treasurer Troy Buswell recently appointing a former Howard Government industrial relations advocate to review the State industrial relations system and recommend areas for legislative reform in areas including individual versus collective agreements, the award safety net, minimum wages, statutory minimum conditions of employment and unfair dismissal.

The review is due to report to government later this year and the State Government is expected to announce its intended changes soon after. More than 300,000 workers in the Western Australian public sector and in unincorporated small businesses are likely to be affected.

Launching the commercial at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital today, UnionsWA Secretary Simone McGurk said the introduction of WorkChoices-style reforms would further undermine the delivery of important public sector services.

"Health, education, policing, child protection and other important public sector services are already suffering because of Troy Buswell's arbitrary 3 per cent budget cuts," said Ms McGurk.

"Now the State Government is planning to bring in WorkChoices-style changes that will weaken the award safety net system and cut minimum conditions in Western Australia.

“This will make it harder to attract and retain public sector workers, particularly in the new Gorgon-led boom, where the private sector will be seeking to attract workers with better pay and conditions.

“This will not only impact on the quality of health, education, policing and child protection services, but also on public services that will come under pressure during the new boom, such as environmental protection and mine safety.”

Ms McGurk said two versions of the commercial would go to air, one in the metropolitan area and one in regional WA.

“One of our commercials will be speaking directly to Premier Colin Barnett and reminding him that he was elected to improve public services, not to weaken the award safety net and cut minimum conditions for public sector workers.

“We will also be screening a commercial in regional WA that speaks directly to National Party leader Brendon Grylls, whose support Mr Barnett and Mr Buswell will need if they want to pass legislation to bring in WorkChoices-style changes to WA workplace laws.

“We want to remind Mr Grylls that the people of Western Australia will hold him as responsible as Mr Barnett and Mr Buswell if changes are introduced that make life tougher for Western Australian workers.”

Ms McGurk said the No WorkChoices in WA campaign would be run until the State Government guaranteed that it would:

- Not introduce WorkChoices style individual contracts in Western Australia;
- Not erode minimum standards or the award safety net system in Western Australian workplaces;
- Maintain the role of the WA Industrial Relations Commission as the independent umpire;
- Maintain protections against unfair dismissal; and
- Maintain and improve public services in WA.

More information about the campaign could be found at [www.noworkchoicesinwa.com](http://www.noworkchoicesinwa.com).

Ends.

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