

Opportunity to reduce worker hardship in the public sector

The union of public sector workers says its members stand ready to meet with government agencies and provide feedback about how worker hardship might be reduced and procedural fairness might be improved to ensure timely processing of suspensions.

“Queensland laws and procedural fairness ensures that public sector workers can get paid and access their entitlements should the employer suspend them because an allegation against them is being investigated,” QPSU President Vivienne Doogan said today.

“We are aware that in some cases, timeframes for processing such allegations could be improved – it is very stressful for workers to wait so long for outcomes to investigations and they would prefer for things to be expedited in nearly every case.

“All workers are entitled to fairness and due process in instances where they are suspended while the employer or the CMC investigates an allegation against them.

“Such cases can take quite some time to complete if there are legal matters to be finalised, like a coronial inquest or a Queensland Police investigation.

“Workers in both public and private sectors shouldn’t have to endure unfair hardship while allegations involving their good name are finalised and this also means ensuring that these processes are undertaken as quickly as possible while still being thorough and giving everyone involved a fair hearing.

“It’s procedural fairness that ensures affected workers who are facing as yet unproven allegations can get paid, feed their families, pay their bills and keep a roof above their heads while circumstances outside their control are addressed, like CMC inquiries, lengthy court cases or police investigations.”

The QPSU observed that the CMC took steps in the past to ensure that in appropriate circumstances, certain allegations against workers are referred to the relevant employer agency for determination.

Contact: Alex Scott, General Secretary, QPSU: 0407 379 284