
From: Angus McFarland
Sent: Friday, 16 May 2025 12:56 PM
To: Law; Greg Donnelly
Subject: Angus McFarland - Australian Services Union - Opening Statement

Good morning,

The Chair requested we submit our opening statements electronically to save time in the hearing for evidence to be heard.

See my short, prepared opening statement below.

ANGUS MCFARLAND
SECRETARY
AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION NSW / ACT

The Australian Services Union does not support the proposed legislation.

As the union for community and disability workers, water and transport industry workers, and airlines workers – we can only see workers left behind by the proposed legislation, not supported.

The legislation puts lawyers in charge of mental health instead of doctors and medical specialists.

Scheme sustainability will come from a focus on prevention – yet the proposals we have seen to date do not invest in prevention, rather they punish workers by cutting access to critical supports.

The reforms, as proposed, will create harm instead of minimise risk or prevent injury.

This has been a rushed process and there has been insufficient time to consult with members and other key stakeholders in ASU industries.

We are up for reforming the system – but it must be done through a considered independent review that takes the time to get it right, so that no one is left behind.

Regards

Angus

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