

PS Election Survey 2022

Bargaining OHS and employee relations.

1. Will you agree to implement true industry bargaining with a single Agreement for VPS and wider sector staff in our coverage? Need more information.

2. Will you agree to pilot a four-day week for VPS and wider sector staff? Or the addition of a 19-day month? Or the addition of an extra week of annual leave? Need more information.

3. What is your parties PS wages policy and how will it address the cost of living for VPS and wider sector staff? As a party predominantly concerned with the justice system and victims of crime we don't have a wages policy. We have fought for better pay and conditions for emergency services workers as part of our commitments since our election in 2018.

4. Will you remove the wage cap and actually bargain under new industrial relations laws? Need more information.

5. Will you commit to no redundancies in the VPS and wider sector? Need more information.

6. Will you commit to maintaining flexible work options for VPS and wider sector staff? There probably needs to be a more nuanced approach to maintaining both the connection and social benefits of working from the workplace as well as flexible work arrangements from staff, but we'd definitely commit to consulting sectors on this.

7. Will you commit to 26 weeks paid parental leave for both parents for fairer families and workplaces? Yes, our Party is a big supporter of equality and policies that benefit women and children.

8. Will you legislate to make WorkSafe independent from PS Department employers and report directly to Parliament? Anything that promotes transparency, honesty and integrity would be supported by DHJP.

9. Will you update referral to ensure Federal IR changes to sex discrimination, bullying, and bargaining apply to Victorian public sector? Ms Maxwell has done significant work in establishing an independent Commission to oversee bullying and sex discrimination within the Parliament where this conduct is unfortunately well represented. We believe VEOHRC should investigate such behaviour and make recommendations.

Resourcing for the future.

10. Will you agree to remove the current budget settings that place a cap on staffing? Need more information.

11. Will you remove the efficiency dividend and fully fund the delivery of Government programs? Need more information.

12. What are your regional development plans for VPS and wider sector staff whose Department or Agency is currently City or Metropolitan based? We broadly believe more public sector staff should be located in regional Victoria especially where that work relates to Regional Development or projects. A regional housing strategy needs to accompany this.

13. Will you work with CPSU to further develop cadetship scheme to improve the intake into VPS to ensure the VPS reflects the community that it serves? This sounds like a great idea but need more information.

14. Will you review the contracts of outsourced service providers to ensure they are compliant with the Jobs Code? This isn't something we'd commit to given our legislative priorities.

Addressing staff shortages

15. How will you address excessive workloads which contribute to the increase of stress and mental health claims? Prevention is always best so working with high-risk employers on how to reduce stress in the workplace is important. Merit-based leadership may also assist with reducing workplace conflict. We'd support initiatives to reduce mental health claims.

16. Will you agree to assist higher education degree mandated occupations by reimbursing HECS fees? Need more information.

17. Will you agree to assist filling job vacancies in regional areas with salary incentives? Yes. DHJP was instrumental in establishing the Incentive Scheme which attracted mental health workers to regional areas. It was disappointing to see a similar scheme established for school teachers was mainly spent in suburban areas.

Learning and Development and support

18. Will you commit to continue recognised short course delivery and extend the stackable training options of Learning and Development need such as data analysis? Need more information.19. Will you empower the Public Service Commissioner to be to direct PS employers? Need more information on why this would be necessary.

Hope this helps

Regards Stuart