



08 December 2025

Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

I write to you today on behalf of Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC), to endorse the submission made by the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU-PSU), which has coverage of the Australian Public Service (APS) and other affiliated unions.

Established in 1856, VTHC is the peak body for unions in Victoria, representing 500,000 union members from 40 affiliated unions. These members represent every industry and occupation across this great state, and every single one of these members deserves a public service that has secure work, strong institutional knowledge and delivers the best possible outcomes for all Australians.

Victorian unions stand on the principle that union members' wages are precious. Working people deserve to have their taxes spent to the maximum benefit.

It is vital that the federal government legislate to improve procurement standards, limit the use of contractors where work could ordinarily be done by a public sector entity, and ban contractors who have engaged in unethical behaviour from receiving public funds. Private entities that have a proven record of misuse of public funds must be held accountable.

Investment in the Commonwealth Public Service must be a high order priority for the Government, acting to reduce the use of consultants and other outside contractors is a vital first step in achieving this. Recent instances of systemic abuses of taxpayer funds necessitate a system-wide review. VTHC firmly believes that a debarment period of up to 5 years under this Bill is modest and appropriate.

In unity,

Wil Stracke

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