Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today said that to stop constant scare mongering over public service staff levels, the Office of Public Employment would be releasing staffing details on a regular basis.

"Staffing level numbers have not be detailed on a regular basis before," she said.

"This Government is committed to being open and accountable, unlike the previous administration we do not want to hide facts from the public.

"The new system will provide an accurate and reliable account of staffing levels with that information made public regularly," she said.

Ms Martin said the 2002/03 budget had won wide support for its initiatives aimed at creating public and private sector jobs - particularly in nursing, teaching and the police force.

"I'm confident the new system will end irresponsible, and uninformed, scare mongering by the Opposition that the Government has a plan to greatly reduce the number of workers.

"There has been a small staff reduction in the last year (as there was the previous year under the CLP) which was associated with out sourcing in DCIS and some staff contracts not being renewed following the restructuring - there were no forced redundancies.

"Creating jobs is a cornerstone of this Government's success with unemployment currently down to just 4.2% and more than 3,600 jobs created since we came to power.

"There are far more employment opportunities in the Territory today, under this Government, than there were 12 months ago.

"We respect our Public Service and want to improve the employment opportunities for our valued government workers."