GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PUBLIC SERVANTS

Minister for Public Employment Paul Henderson said today he totally rejects the CLP’s demand to sack public servants.

“The CLP’s call to cut a swathe through public service jobs is not justified,” Minister Henderson said.

“The CLP claims that there has been an “explosion” and “extraordinary growth” in unfunded public service jobs is utterly false.

“This Government has increased the number of police, teachers and nurses and has provided extra funds in successive budgets for this to occur – the services these jobs are delivering have been welcomed by Territorians.

“In terms of overall public servant numbers, year to year comparison (June 2005 to June 2006 which removes seasonal factors) there has been increase in service delivery agencies of Police (up 63), Health (up 53) and Education (up 52).

“At the same time other agencies have reduced in numbers, for example: Treasury (down 20), Chief Minister's (down 25) and DCIS (down 8).

“The net change has been growth of 79.

“The most recent global number is 15,874 as at the end of September 2006. These global numbers bounce around for a host of reasons including seasonal factors.

“The modest surplus delivered in last years budget (2005/06) is proof positive that the Budget is being responsibly managed.

“The CLP call to start sacking people is proof again that they are not fit to govern,” said Minister Henderson.

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