



Turnbull is all about profit
COMMUNITY SERVICES are not

Community services are not for sale!

The Turnbull Government, before the recent election, set up a Productivity Commission Inquiry into how community services can be subject to increased “competition and contestability”. Let’s be clear – this means exploring how they can pit organisation against organisation, and include ‘for-profit’ providers competing against ‘not for profit’ NGOs for community services funding.

This could force many local community services to close with big business replacing them and making profits for their shareholders from the people you support.

Tell the Productivity Commission that we say NO to for-profit businesses making money from supporting vulnerable people.

The detail – what’s at risk

Companies making profit from services to vulnerable people

Allowing ‘for-profit’ organisations to deliver services to the most vulnerable members of our community is not a good use of public money. Every dollar of Government funding should go to supporting people in need – not profits for shareholders.

Quality service is a stake

The desire to make profit will inevitably lead to erosion of the quality of services that are provided to clients in need. In a bid to win tenders big business may undercut the true cost of service provision. This means poor quality services for clients and communities, and increased workloads for staff.

Smaller not for profits most at risk

The unique role and relationships that locally based organisations have in their communities will be undermined if they are replaced with big business that has no connection, respect or trust from people in need.

We will have less diversity of services

If a provider is driven by profit, not purpose, they will focus on services that are the “cheapest” to deliver. This means that specialist services and intensive services - which cost more – will suffer as there could be fewer providers who can take these services on as they face tough competition from big business to win government contracts.

Uncertainty and instability for the workforce

The threat of your service being closed or losing contracts to for profit providers will mean more stress when we know workloads are already high in our sector. Burnout and workers leaving the sector is a real possibility. This would mean loss of experience and local knowledge. Constant change also means insecure work – we are already seeing less permanent jobs in our sector and more and more short term contracts. This will only get worse if the sector is opened to more competition. Clients will lose out if experienced and dedicated workers chose to leave the sector.

What you can do

If you are concerned about this, make a submission to the Productivity Commission here:
www.asu.asn.au/sacs/sacs-pc-inq2016.

Write your submission to the Inquiry by Friday July 22nd 2016 and we will then submit all members’ submissions directly to the Productivity Commission.