
MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State



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Government delivers boost to frontline services

The "NSW Public Sector Workforce 2008 Snapshot" was released today revealing significant increases in staffing for frontline public services, said Minister for Public Sector Reform and Special Minister of State, John Robertson.

"The real story in this latest set of statistics is that in 2007/08 there were more workers than ever in frontline service delivery positions," said Mr Robertson.

"The most significant increases in staffing have been in health, education, policing, transport and community services with these areas alone experiencing a total increase of over 5600 new positions.

"In education, staffing grew by around 600 full-time equivalent positions with the majority of those heading straight into the classroom as teachers.

"The health sector was another huge growth area with close to 3000 extra positions across the health system.

"The State Government is delivering on its commitment to boost public services, as evidenced by these staggering figures.

"Since this data was collected a freeze on recruitment to back office jobs has been put in place in order to fund further increases on the frontline.

"The Rees Government is also investing heavily in the future skilled workforce with more than 6000 apprenticeships and cadetships to be made available over the next four years.

"Recruitment into the new JumpStart public sector cadetship program commenced two weeks ago and the Government is on track to recruit 500 young workers into the sector next financial year.

"This investment in training will be critical in ensuring the NSW Government is well positioned for growth when the economic climate improves."

Mr Robertson attacked the Opposition for its stance on public sector job cuts and public services at the last election.

"While this Government has been recruiting an additional 5600 workers in health, education and other essential services the Opposition remains hell bent on job cuts and service cuts."

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