

SAVE SA JOBS SAVE SA JOBS SAVE SA JOBS SAVE SA JOBS SAVE SA JOBS

MEDIA ALERT **Adelaide, Wednesday, March 20**
12.45 – 1.45 pm at Parliament House Steps, North Terrace

Management & Union standing together to save jobs at supplier threatened by Government Tender blunder...

- Minister O'Brien's "Unintended Consequence" threatens 100 jobs
- Workers sacrificing hours and income to save company
- Public Petition currently has 8,000+ signatures
- Schools now paying more for many items

"Standing together will be Group General Manager of ANCOL /KWWS, **Grant Eckert** – along with the hard working members of the National Union of Workers and their spokesperson, NUW State Organiser **Dave Garland**. Both parties are committing to do whatever it takes to save the jobs of workers at two sites, a warehouse at Allenby Gardens and paper products factory at Elizabeth West.

The 'Save Our SA Jobs' Rally is on the steps of Parliament House from 12.45 pm, this Wednesday (Mar 20th). Join us to let the State Government know just how much damage they are doing to small business and individual workers in SA.

Background: KW Wholesale Stationers is a wholly SA owned and operated co-operative - the supplier of choice to 85% of State Primary Schools. This local company had its proven contract supplying hundreds of SA State Primary Schools modified and thrown in to a general 'Across Government' Tender that ignored its special status in our school environment. It is being forced to lay-off workers as the Government's contract with two multi national companies takes its toll.

"Supplying education specific products is big business for us, and imperative for our viability, but it represents only a small percentage of value in the Whole of Government contract," said Group General Manager Grant Eckert.

In October last year, the State Government handed the stationery contract for our State Primary Schools to two multi-national US owned companies that have Australian headquarters based interstate - OfficeMax and Corporate Express/Staples.

The State Government's poorly-advised decision threatens the livelihood of countless SA workers and family members directly linked with independent newsagencies who benefit from the buying power of KWWS contracts. This is a serious blow to teachers, parents and students in urban and regional communities across South Australia.

Mr Eckert said: "These supposed 'Across Government' contracts are not true exclusive contracts for the provision of services to the whole of Government but rather places the most profitable and lucrative lines of Government stationery business with multi-national companies, to the detriment of SA small business and local employment".

Call GM Grant Eckert 0407 790 161; or NUW Dave Garland, 0417 285 250;
or for media assistance at all hours, Mike O'Reilly 0414 882 505

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