

MEDIA RELEASE
KATHY JACKSON, NATIONAL SECRETARY, HSU
12 September 2011

Kathy Jackson today confirmed that information had been supplied to NSW Police in respect of matters that are subject of widespread media reporting within recent days.

Ms Jackson further stated that she has every confidence that these matters will be thoroughly and professionally investigated by NSW Police.

Ms Jackson said also that she wanted to be very open about her hospitalization last week. She said -

“I can confirm that last week I was admitted for several days to the acute psychiatric unit of the Austin Hospital in Melbourne following a breakdown. I’d like to say that I’m not ashamed about this. Mental health problems afflict many Australian families. I have received excellent treatment and I have made a speedy recovery. I want to acknowledge and thank the doctors and staff who provided me with such expert care. I have been advised by my doctors to avoid stress for a period. I intend generally to follow that advice but I felt that my duty to the members required me to facilitate the provision of information to police at this time.”.

Ms Jackson said that she was struck by the fact that, apart from the doctors, almost all those who were involved in her treatment at the Austin – the psychiatric nurses, health professionals, support workers, food service workers and so on – are members of the Health Services Union. She said that because they and other union members were getting on with their jobs, she felt encouraged to get back to hers as soon as possible -

“I want to assure union members that the union is getting on with the job. The vast majority of your union officials are honest and work hard to advance and protect your interests. They have my complete confidence.

“I want the members to know that, notwithstanding my recent health problem, I am committed to protecting and advancing their interests and will continue to do what is necessary to achieve that goal. Union members deserve answers, and I want to let them know that I won't let these matters drop until you get them”.

Ms Jackson said that she was looking forward to the full explanation to members of his union credit card use promised by former HSU National Secretary, Craig Thomson.

She said –

“Craig Thomson owes it to union members to give a full explanation at the earliest possible opportunity”

Ends.