

Media Release

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CUTS ONLY WAY TO DELIVER LIBERALS \$10.8 BILLION BLACKHOLE

Brad Battin and Jess Wilson's plan for Victoria would create a growing \$10.8 billion Budget black hole that can only mean: cuts to schools, hospitals and police.

New analysis released today lays bare the scale of the Liberal and National's plan for cuts – which are equivalent to Victoria Police's Budget over two years or shutting down seven hospitals.

The last time the Liberals were in office, they cut schools, hospitals and brought the TAFE system to its knees. The Labor Government reversed these savage cuts to essential services that underpin our economy and quality of life.

But it's clear, if Brad Battin and Jess Wilson get their hands on power, they'll do it all over again.

The Liberals have so far announced at least \$10.8 billion in unfunded commitments: freezing government fees, changes to stamp duty for first home buyers, repealing the ESVF, abolishing the short-stay accommodation levy and introducing a payroll exemption for high-fee non-government schools.

These unfunded commitments can only mean one thing – sacking ambos, nurses, cops and teachers to pay for their budget blackhole.

Such an unprecedented loss of revenue from the radical right-wing Liberal and Nationals could mean that up to 4,500 police officers, 9,000 teachers and 18,000 nurses would need to be sacked just to fill the blackhole they have made so far.

The Allan Labor Government's investment in workers, transport and jobs is driving our economy forward and our strong economic plan is protecting our future – and we will always support our frontline.

Unlike the Liberals, we will never cut nurses, teachers, police officers or child protection workers.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Jaclyn Symes

"Jess Wilson is the third shadow Treasurer in less than a year. She has a choice: break free from the Liberal economic vandalism she's inherited — or admit she's part of the frontline cuts gang."

"Brad Battin's plan would leave a massive \$10.8 billion blackhole in the Budget – which can only be filled in by making savage cuts to police, teachers, nurses and ambos."

"It's time the Liberals come clean and say how they will pay for their \$10.8 billion blackhole."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Finance Danny Pearson

"This is the same old slash-and-burn Liberal Party, they are too busy fighting each other to tell the truth — their plan means mass sackings, plain and simple."

"They will have zero headroom to invest in the infrastructure we will need as the nation's fastest growing state, leaving people out of work and diminishing the state's capacity to keep delivering essential services."