

Productivity Commission Inquiry into the increased application of competition, contestability and informed user choice to human services

My Union has advised me that prior to the recent election, the NLP instructed the Productivity Commission to hold an inquiry into which community services should be opened up for greater competition and contestability with the private sector. I am aware that this would open the sector that I work in up to for-profit organisations and that seriously concerns me. I see every time I come to work, how limited our funding is and how we stretch every dollar to get our work done. Plus, I have to limit how many people I see each day, simply because I don't have enough time to enter in all the data needed for me to report, so that my agency can retain its government funding. I am not earning a high wage, but my agency is more generous than most. Still, my hourly rate is comparable to that of somebody stacking shelves at the supermarket (with little or no training). The only way that I can see the community services sector 'making a profit is to 1) submit bogus accounts to the government (seriously NOT advising this)... or 2) to pay less than award wages or 3) force everyone to work from home (seriously NOT a good idea when working with people with mental illness or drug and alcohol addictions. Also, I come to work because I cannot afford to turn on my heating at home, but my office is heated!). How about we stop paying Politicians their award salaries? Or stop paying CEO's of big corporations their agreed contract rates? How about we take away your air-conditioning at work and at home, so you get to know how the other half lives? I don't use alcohol, drugs, cigarettes or have any recreation and hardly watch any TV. I only eat two meals a day, to save money so I can afford to choose between buying my prescription medication (so that I can continue to be in the workforce), or turning on my electric blanket (no other heating) in winterAnd you want to turn community services over to the for-profit sector?

You have got to be joking!! Then you wonder why the NLP barely scraped in with a majority? Wake up people! The answer to the Inquiry is simple.... No-one should profit from vulnerable people. Do not turn the community services sector over to for-profit companies. Do you really want to copy the USA, with their shocking welfare system? There has got to be another way!