**17 January 2020**

# **PREMIER HODGMAN’S EPIC FAIL: LEAVES OFFICE WITH TASMANIA’S CORRECTIONAL CRISIS UNRESOLVED**

# The United Workers Union (UWU) will hold a media conference to highlight the appalling state of the Prison system with key problems left unresolved by Premier will Hodgman and Corrections Minister Elise Archer.

# Where: United Workers Union, 212 Liverpool St Hobart.

# When: 9.30am Friday 17 January 2020

# Who: Philip Pregnell, UWU delegate and Correctional Supervisor; Aileen Britten, wife of injured Correctional Officer; and Jannette Armstrong UWU spokesperson Tasmania.

# The Tasmania Prison Service is in crisis because the Liberals under Premier Will Hodgman have jailed hundreds more people without a corresponding increase in the numbers of correctional officers.

# UWU spokesperson Janette Armstrong said Will Hodgman was leaving the State Government without solving the crisis in Tasmania’s Prison system, made worse by cost cutting and a staff freeze administered by Corrections Minister Elise Archer.

# “The Liberal Government has failed correctional officers and lied to the public about the difficulties officers face trying to manage a greater number of prisoners with insufficient staff and resources,” Ms Armstrong said.

# “Today is National Corrections Day where we recognise the work Correctional Officers do, and the sacrifices they make to keep our communities safe. We should be celebrating their tireless work, in the line of duty.”

# “Minister Archer has shown no concern and failed to acknowledge the crisis in our prison system. She should take this opportunity to apologise for misleading the community and disrespecting Correctional Officers with her denial of incidents over the holiday period, and for the chronic understaffing and workplace health and safety issues that have worsened under her and Will Hodgman’s leadership.”

# “The public should be outraged that many offenders will rejoin the community without getting the rehabilitation they need because of Government cutbacks.”

“Correctional offices are currently suffering high rates of injury and PTSD without access to the preventative services offered to other first responders.”

“Today, on National Corrections Day, the United Workers Union demands that Minister Archer increase support, wages, and staffing levels immediately.”

“If she fails to act, Elise Archer should be sacked and follow Mr Hodgman out the door.”

Media contact Rhiannon Salter 0409 625 283