



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

Prophetic. Pro-Active. Prayerful.

May 8, 2009

The Hon. Nathan Rees
Premier of NSW
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrar Place Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in New South Wales [CLRI(NSW)] Social Justice Committee which represents 3,500 religious women and men in New South Wales. This committee attempts to act effectively with respect to issues of social justice in the areas of Indigenous rights, housing and homelessness, prisons, the environment as well as public transport and social inclusion. We seek to investigate and initiate action concerning the areas mentioned.

This committee is deeply concerned that your Government is intending to cut costs by reducing or eliminating staff from railway stations in Sydney and suburbs. It is concerned on the impact of railway personnel as well as the effects it will have on the travelling public.

Personnel on railway stations are a necessary service as they provide assistance to people who are elderly and people who live with physical disabilities. As you would know, many of our railway stations are not very friendly to such people in any case. Another effect of staff cuts on railway stations is the information, security and safety they offer by their very presence.

More and more people are using public transport and this should be encouraged for the sake of our environment and social inclusion. Less available services will not promote these benefits.

A further concern to this committee is the reality of unemployment. It does not make sense that your government would even consider increasing the level of unemployment by staff cutbacks which would have consequences for their families as well. There may be some savings to the Government, but the costs to the public and those who serve them would be greater.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

[Father]Claude Mostowik msc

cc. Ms Kristina Kenneally MP
Member for Heffron

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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