**MONDAY, 1st AUGUST 2016**

**THIS BEHAVIOUR DOES NOT HAPPEN IN WA**

**Statement from Toni Walkington Secretary of CPSU/CSA:**

**Spit Hoods at Youth Detention Centre, Banksia Hill**

As a Union our primary concern is the safety of staff, and we see this as a knee-jerk reaction from the Department.

The use of spit hoods was only ever for extremely serious and hazardous situations.

They are used rarely for the protection, health and safety of staff at Banksia Hill.

Unfortunately, putting the onus on staff to protect themselves in PPE gear is impractical.

In a volatile situation where a detainee is spitting, the department’s supposed plan for officers to leave the incident, which then may escalate, to put on their mask is unworkable.

Of most concern is if a staff member sustains an open wound on the hand or neck; if the spitting continues they are at risk of contracting a pathogen such as Hepatitis C.

The Union will be raising these issues with the Department in the coming days.

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**AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT:**

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