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*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

LABOR'S BUDGET FIASCO LEADS TO JOB CUTS

Trust in Labor has crashed with the ACT being subjected to some of the harshest cuts as a result of the Gillard Government's budget.

The Canberra Times today estimated that the Public Service would lose 12,000 jobs as a result of Labor's 2012/13 budget, while the GST distribution would leave the ACT seriously short changed.

"Labor have been given chance after chance to come clean about how many public servants will lose their jobs, but they just cannot bring themselves to be honest with the electorate", Senator Humphries said today.

"If this government had any credibility left before last night's abysmal budget, it's gone now."

Confusion within Labor's own ranks over the impacts on the ACT also seems rife with the Finance Minister, Penny Wong, at odds with Senator Kate Lundy. Last night Senator Wong said there would be "few" sackings while this morning Senator Lundy said there would be none.

"This is a party that is stumbling and bumbling around its own dishonesty. It's a concern that the Finance Minister and Sports Minister have different interpretations of Labor's own budget.

"Labor can't provide any clear indication of the budget's impact on the ACT, and their hollow promises to defend the APS have now joined the continually growing pile of broken Labor promises.

"While the Coalition has been clear about our plans for the APS, the ALP have attempted to do by stealth what they promised they wouldn't – cut jobs from the Public Service", Senator Humphries concluded.