

# Media Release

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For immediate release



## ST.GEORGE JOINS RACE TO BOTTOM IN OFFSHORING JOBS

St.George Bank has joined the race to sack Australian workers and send their jobs to India, citing the commercial pressure brought to bear by competitors who are moving to do the same.

In a bizarre announcement, management today explained that 60 Collections jobs based at Kogarah and 16 Credit Card jobs based in Adelaide would be outsourced to IBM in Bangalore.

The key messages given to staff, separately, was that they were having difficulty sourcing skilled staff for collections in an environment of unsecured loans and increased losses, and that they needed to increase new and existing credit cards through marketing campaigns.

The Finance Sector Union said today it was appalled at St.George's decision and their failure to provide meaningful consultation periods ahead of their decision.

Paul Schroder, National Secretary of the FSU said, "We have been warning the industry, the government, the public and our members of the race to the bottom that these employers will enter if nothing is done to promote Australian jobs and now we are seeing that become a reality."

"The fact that St.George and other employers refuse to invest in training and skilling the Australian workforce is now being used as another excuse for moving jobs offshore."

"The simple fact is this is about costs savings. And when one company decides to start a race to the bottom on costs, the rest can't resist. We need something better than this. We need to have our Government do something about the leakage of jobs to India before it becomes a irreversible flood." Said Mr. Schroder

Speaking about the contradictory statements issued by St.George, Steve White of Credit Restoration Australia said, "Our experience is that the pushing of unsecured credit lands many of our clients in serious financial difficulty. It is also true, in our experience that offshore collections staff often are unfamiliar with Australian privacy laws and practices. Moving these types of functions offshore into further deregulated environments will do nothing to assist Australians with their finances." (See attached statement)

The FSU has called on the Federal Government to intervene on the offshoring of finance jobs.

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