

25 May 2017

State Budget 2017

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Tasmanian Branch) Branch Secretary, Mrs Neroli Ellis, attended the budget lock up at Treasury today and welcomes the budget.

“It is clear the Government acknowledges the pressures of the lack of acute beds in this State and has announced funding to open beds and secure permanent operations for those at risk due to Commonwealth funding expiring. “

“The requirement to refurbish areas of RHH and Repat will take time with the first beds becoming available in August. Unfortunately the pressures on the RHH ED will continue for the first months of winter.”

“Other announcements include funding for extending pharmacy hours, after hours allied health Tolosa Street subacute/respite mental health centre and one more year of the Community Rapid Response team in the North.”

“The actual increase in beds will roll out over the next 18 months with the only immediate beds being 4 extra beds on Ward 4D, which have been used for flex capacity. The new Royal beds to come on line will be the 10 beds in the refurbished renal/transit lounge in August and the beds at Roy Fagan and New Norfolk once staffed. This will leave the RHH under pressure for the next few months until beds begin to open.”

“Recruitment of nurses will be paramount however, offering permanent contracts will assist. Retaining our current nurse workforce is a priority and the staffing levels and ability to provide quality care will be important factors for recruitment.”

Unfortunately there is no additional funding for palliative care since the removal of commonwealth funding and hospice@HOME books are now closed. ANMF will continue to lobby both Federal and State Government to ensure Tasmanians have choice to die at home.

Media contact: Neroli Ellis 0408 037 589