

Elective Surgery Suspensions

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) have been made aware that the Australian Government's announcement to suspend all elective surgery from 1 April 2020, will impact on our members in private hospitals across the State. The ANMF are aware that members at Healthcare North West Private Hospital and also Hobart Private Hospital, may be impacted by these changes. The ANMF will be seeking further information for members at Calvary Healthcare Tasmania and also at Hobart Day Surgery, once received this will be communicated to members.

The ANMF have been advised that members at Healthcare North West Private Hospital working in elective surgery will be stood down for 4 weeks effective immediately and Hobart Private Hospital members may be affected after 1 April.

Members at Healthcare North West Private Hospital have been offered access to any leave entitlements (Annual/Long Service) at half rate, or you can elect not to use your leave entitlements. We understand that some members may not have any leave entitlements nor wish to use them at this time. For those at Hobart Private Hospital, the ANMF understands that your employer is currently assessing options for staff and taking expression of interest for leave after 1 April.

The ANMF have raised with the Minister for Health and also the Secretary for the Department of Health that some private sector employees may be interested in a short-term contract with the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) during this stand down. The Minister for Health has indicated that any nurses at either of these sites would be considered for working within the THS during this stand down period and that it is the Government's view that no healthcare worker should be disengaged with the health workforce during this time. The ANMF understands that the Department of Health will contact your employers to discuss how this might be facilitated.

The ANMF will be meeting with Hobart Day Surgery and Calvary Healthcare this week to discuss their services and workforce plans for members in the coming days, but no advice has suggested at this time that stand down would be occurring.

The ANMF will continue to support members at all private health facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and any members with concerns are encouraged to contact member support via email: membersupport@anmftas.org.au

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, Branch Secretary

30 March 2020