

ANMF Newsflash: Mersey Community Hospital

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) were advised on Tuesday 31 March 2020 that as part of the Tasmanian Health Service's (THS) response to COVID-19 the Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) Emergency Department (ED) would operate with revised, and reduced, opening hours from today, 2 April 2020. The ED will be closed between the hours of 10pm and 8am.

The ANMF understand that this decision was made in line with the THS COVID-19 escalation plan and is due to a variety of factors including withdrawal of locum doctors, reduced nursing staff levels and an intention to manage all COVID-19 patients at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH). The ANMF were advised that some nurses will be required between 10pm and 8am as part of the Code Team and that all other nursing staff will be consulted on options that are most suitable to them. These options may include re-deployment at the MCH, re-deployment to NWRH or continuing to work at MCH ED as part of the Code Team. The ANMF have been assured that no nurse will be forced to re-deploy to the NWRH if they do not wish to.

The ANMF have also sought assurances that no member will be disadvantaged through this process and that the reduction in hours at MCH ED is only due to the COVID-19 response and escalation plan. The change in operating hours will be monitored and reviewed in line with the overall COVID19 plan.

Any ANMF member who has further queries is encouraged to contact our Member Support Team via email membersupport@anmftas.org.au or call 1800 001 241. Due to COVID-19 the Team are now practicing social isolation and working from home, baring this in mind, email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting them.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, Branch Secretary

2 April 2020