

ANMF COVID-19 Newsflash: Private Sector COVID-19 Survey results

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) conducted a survey of members currently working in the Private Sector, gathering their experiences of working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 94 members completed this survey.
- 45% felt their workplace had prepared sufficiently for the current situation, 55% did not.
- 82% indicated they were aware of their employers COVID-19 management plan.
- 60% indicated that they did not have appropriate donning or doffing stations at their workplace.
- Majority of members had not been fit tested for a mask or had been fit tested but not provided with a suitable mask.

72% of members from this survey indicated they were not aware of any paid pandemic leave provided by the employer and 52% were not aware of the Commonwealth Pandemic Leave available to all workers. Information regarding this payment was issued to all members on 14 January 2022. For clarity answers to the following FAQs from the survey responses may assist members:

Do I get this payment if I still have leave entitlements?

No, this payment is to provide financial support to those who do not have any leave entitlements – and thus are unable to receive income due to COVID-19 isolation requirements.

My employer told me I am not eligible for the Commonwealth Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, is this true?

If you cannot earn income due to a requirement to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 (conditions to this apply), you are an Australian resident or holds an eligible working visa; have no entitlement to relevant paid leave / exhausted your entitlement; haven't received income or income support during the period and are losing greater than 8 hours of work per week – then you are entitled to apply for this payment. You must complete an application external to your organisation

at: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-claim-pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-tasmania?context=53118>.

If you cannot access this payment, you may be eligible for the Tasmanian Government Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grant. Information regarding this grant can be found at <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/families-community/individual-grants>.

Fortunately, many members reported they were able to take their breaks, had suitable places to take breaks, had access to PPE supplies and were adequately training in application of PPE. The ANMF will liaise with individual facilities where this is not the case.

The ANMF Tasmanian Branch is 8000 plus members strong! Supporting nurses, midwives, and care workers as the only union in Tasmania employing nurses and care workers to represent members. This is why our Organisers and Member Support Team are uniquely positioned to understand your experiences, represent you in your workplace, and offer industrial advice that's relevant to you.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Member Support Team via email on membersupport@anmftas.org.au. Email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting the team. Alternatively, you can phone (03) 6223 6777 or 1800 001 241 if outside Hobart.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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