

ANMF COVID-19 Newsflash: Spencer Clinic

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) on behalf of members have contacted Spencer Clinic management to seek an update on information in relation to your ward and their response to the current Omicron COVID-19 situation. Specifically, the ANMF has asked the following questions: in *italics*, and response from your employer in **bold**,

If the answers below are contradictory to what you are experiencing, please advise the ANMF via our member support team so we can take further action.

- Is Spencer Clinic the only 'COVID' psychiatric ward for North and Northwest Tasmania? **Yes**
- Will HCU patients be admitted to Spencer Clinic at this time? **Yes, but not if the red zone is in use, cannot have all 3 zones due to staffing numbers. Can have either red or HCU not both - All areas must be safely staffed to patient numbers and acuity**
- Is there a protocol/guideline that clarify if HCU is to be closed when Red Zone in use and vis-a-versa? **Work is progressing on a protocol, group and clinical directors are aware of member concerns. An email will be sent to all members today to clarify the process.**
The ANMF understands that when Spencer Clinic is being asked to open beds in all 3 areas the in charge nurse is to phone the mental health management on call to manage the situation. If safe staffing cannot be achieved the On-Call will escalate the concern through the Group Director, who will liaise with THS to have patients managed in another area.
- Who can authorise closure of HCU/Redzone Beds? **The Deputy Secretary.**
- What is the current nurse staffing profile? **6,5,3**
The ANMF note that this is below the agreed model of 6.6.4. Whilst Spencer Clinic may be safely staffed at the start of the shift based on patient numbers and acuity, a staffing profile

below the agreed model does not allow for additional admissions or capacity to deal with increased changes in patient acuity.

The ANMF encourage members, in the first instance, to raise concerns about unsafe staffing levels with your NUM or the On Call manager outside of business hours and continue to contact the ANMF regarding any staffing concerns so that we can raise these on your behalf.

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 1800 001 241.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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