

ANMF COVID-19 Newsflash: Aged Care Update

With increasing numbers of COVID-19 across the Tasmanian community, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) is aware that this has meant increasing numbers of aged care facilities with affected residents and some aged care staff.

The ANMF continues to attend the Aged Care Emergency Operations Centre, peak bodies and reference group meetings to advocate on behalf of members with both State and Commonwealth representatives for support and resources for aged care members.

With seven facilities having had the support of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the ANMF has sought reassurance that if additional staffing is required it will be provided, despite the ADF will be assisting flood affected areas in New South Wales and Queensland. The ANMF has received confirmation that Aspen will provide support if requested through the facilities Commonwealth representative. Should this support not be forthcoming, please contact the ANMF.

There have been significant changes to the way in which close contacts and outbreaks are defined and managed within aged care facilities. Support and advice is being provided to providers by the Department of Health and the ANMF encourages members to speak with their facility manager and/or their infection control champion to ensure that you are across the updates.

FULLY VACCINATED NOW REQUIRES THE BOOSTER DOSE - Aged/home and disability care

As of Friday, 1 April 2022 all members working in aged care (residential facilities), home care and disability settings must provide evidence of vaccination (including the booster) to their employer. If you are not eligible for your booster on 1 April, you must have your booster within 4 weeks of it falling due. As per the revised Public Health Order if you hold a valid medical exemption you will need to wear a face mask when providing care either in a residential aged care facility, in-home care or to NDIS clients. This applies to workers, students on clinical placement and volunteers. If after 1 April 2022 you are not fully vaccinated (including the booster) and do not have an appointment for your booster, or exempt, you will be unable to work or volunteer in aged care or disability sectors.

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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