



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Correctional Primary Health Service Response to Correspondence

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) were asked by members to conduct a members' meeting onsite at Correctional Primary Health Service (CPHS), Risdon Prison Complex (RPC). The meeting took place on 31 August 2022. Several concerns were raised during this meeting, and it was resolved that these questions would be put in writing to management. A response to this correspondence has now been received. A summary of the questions and responses are as follows:

1. Workload concerns with RA testing and request for additional support by way of additional resources to be deployed when testing a large proportion of the inmate population is required.

Management cited recent changes to COVID testing requirements but have indicated that, "should an outbreak occur within the prison population requiring widespread RA testing of prisoners, [management] would be supportive of rostering an additional staff member in consultation with ADON, CPHS".

2. Primary responsibility for RA testing, between the Department of Health or the Tasmanian Prison Service (TPS) in the prison setting.

Management referred to the Letter of Intent between the Department of Justice and the Department of Health, which "commits both agencies to a shared duty of care for the health, wellbeing, appropriate treatment, and care for shared clients... [however] RA tests would fall within the range of primary health services that the Department of Health has committed to under this agreement". Management reinforced their commitment to provide additional resources (point 1).

3. Adding a second nurse at Hobart Remand Prison (HRP).

A second nurse has been trialled previously, but the workload appeared to not warrant a continuation. If the workload changes, this will be reconsidered.



4. Enrolled nurse trial at Rob Barwick Minimum Security Prison (RBMSp).

Management cited workforce recruitment issues as the motivation behind the change. It is a 6-month trial which will be evaluated at the end. All CPHS nurses will be invited to participate in this review.

5. Advertising the Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) position.

This position is being advertised currently.

6. Concerns raised that “mental health and hospital-based policies don’t reflect the work that is done at CPHS”.

There is a monthly Clinical Protocols and Guidelines Committee meeting to develop relevant documents that are specific to CPHS. These are then reviewed by State-wide Mental Health Services (SMHS) Legal Compliance Committee for approval and alignment with overarching SMHS policies and procedures. An important distinction in the CPHS Model of Care is to align CPHS services with community services, not tertiary based ones.

If members can identify specific policies, protocols and/or guidelines that they don’t think represent the work being conducted by CPHS, please communicate these to your local management and/or the ANMF so that these can be followed up and reviewed.

7. Issues flagged by auditors and what is being done.

- a. Delivery of PRN medication and recording of same. (Standard 4.1 Medication Management – integrating clinical governance).
- b. Delivery of medication during lockdowns, particularly where cells are accessed by stairways. (*Standard 1.29 Clinical Governance – Safe Environment*).
- c. Verification of Prisoner Identification at medication parades. (Standard 6.5 Communicating for Safety – Correct identification and procedure matching).

Currently a Quality Improvement Action Plan is in place to address these issues, in collaboration with TPS and CPHS management.

The ANMF will continue to seek updates in relation to this matter, as the length of time permitted to resolve issues flagged by the auditors comes to an end.



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.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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