



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital – Car Park Availability

Advice re: Tuesday 15 November 2022

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has received multiple contacts from members regarding the apparent unavailability of car parking within the Market Place and Vodafone car parks (both managed by Sultan Group) for staff undertaking the afternoon shift on Tuesday 15 November 2022. Consequently, members reportedly had to park exorbitant distances from the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH), necessitating the use of dinner-breaks to relocate cars and top up meters, and furthermore imposing after-dark walks post-shift in inclement weather to return to their vehicles.

The ANMF wrote to Tasmanian Health Service (THS) senior management regarding this on the same day, requesting that they contact the facility managers to ascertain why this occurred, and what the likelihood of a recurrence might be.

The ANMF in the first instance received the following response on Thursday 17 November 2022:

Thank you for your email, outlining concerns of your members / our team, regarding accessibility to safe parking options, close to work.

As you are aware, Hospitals South does not provide parking broadly for staff, or have facilities to offer parking to its employees.

We are not in a position to contact them to discuss challenges they may face with access and flow.

There may be an opportunity to progress this discussion through the EBA discussion, as there may be similar concerns across other worksites / facilities within Tasmania.

Subsequently, the ANMF contacted Sultan Group directly regarding the same and were informed by the Managing Director that the unavailability of carparks was attributable to the following factors:



1. Inclement weather and high rainfalls saw an abnormal number of early-bird parkers, which effectively rendered the car parks full as early as 0900hrs
2. Rainfalls also resulted in a large amount of run-off on the roads, leaving CBD traffic at an effective standstill during the lunch (1200-1400hrs) period, further contributing to a lack of car park flow
3. Of the 800 car parks in Market Place, approx. 300 of them are reserved in perpetuity for individuals who pay for that right on a monthly basis.

Ultimately, Sultan Group suggests that the events of Tuesday were an exceptional occurrence and not reflective of any underlying issues which might indicate high likelihood of a recurrence in the future. Additionally, whilst hopeful that circumstances do not conspire to see a repeat of this event, they advise nurses and midwives working at the RHH to be mindful of the weather (particularly extreme rainfall) and have a contingency plan for parking if/when traffic becomes similarly affected in the future.

Taxi Voucher – Guidelines and Employee Entitlements

The ANMF, in anticipation of potential repeats of this scenario, strongly recommend members acquaint themselves with the Award-underpinned Staff Taxi Vouchers as well as the stipulations as to when/how to use them.

Copies of the *Taxi Request Form* and *Guidelines and Eligibility* document are presented via the below links.

The ANMF has previously sought advice from THS re: their interpretation of ‘*within reasonable proximity of the hospital premises*’ as relates to the source text from the Award. On that occasion, they commented that the presence of a 24hr car park (Market Place) adjacent to RHH would constitute ‘reasonable proximity’ – by that measure, the ANMF would suggest that in the event of a recurrence of unavailability of late-shift parking at Market Place necessitating alternate arrangements beyond that geographical radius that staff would be entitled to access a taxi for the sake of returning to their car (or home, whichever is nearer) post-shift.

<https://anmftas.org.au/pdf/RHHTaxirequest.pdf> - Taxi Request Form

<https://anmftas.org.au/pdf/RHHTaxiGuidelinesandEligibility.pdf> - Taxi Guidelines and Eligibility



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
22 November 2022