

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital General Medical Unit K-10 East

Feedback Following Thursday 23 February 2023 Member Meeting

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF), having conducted a member meeting in the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) General Medical Unit (K-10 East) on Thursday 23 February 2023, has followed up on several general member queries with the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) and ANMF authorities respectively. Significantly, this included enquiries regarding the perceived lack of progression of historical plans for capital works within the unit aimed at supporting care of behaviourally challenging patients.

Responses from THS senior management regarding this issue are as follows:

- Room 4 on K-10 East has had some works completed around 12-18 months ago which consisted of strengthening the walls with heavy duty laminate. This action has prevented [behaviourally challenging patients] damaging the walls since this has been installed. If [such patients are] admitted to Ward K-10 East all fixtures are removed from the room including taps, toilet seat, hand basin and other removable fixtures. A works submission and architectural design work was completed and submitted to the major works committee around 12 months ago; however, there has been no approval of this to progress. [There was] a plan to trial the major works that could have been completed for Ward K-10 East as a prototype safe ward with an evaluation of this ward space that could potentially be utilised across other medical wards. In any new development of medical wards, a safe room is recommended going forwards with any redesign works so that we can adequately manage this patient cohort across all medical wards.*

- *We acknowledge that [behavioural patients] are challenging for nursing staff to care for and an assessment of patient acuity will be undertaken at the time [any such person] requires admission to Ward K-10 East. Security staff are employed as clinically appropriate, and assessment of nursing levels are determined to ensure we have adequate staffing level to manage all the patients on the ward.*
- *Clinical supervision is provided for staff with the use of a Clinical Psychologist, and this has previously been utilised to provide ongoing support and debriefing to staff on the ward.*
- *Training is provided to staff, and we have developed a new online training for patients with cognitive impairment that is currently being implemented. Code black training is also available for staff members. We have an expectation that all new staff on Ward K-10 East complete the cognitive impairment training during their orientation to the ward.*

Members are encouraged to make further enquiries on such matters with their Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) in the first instance, however, any further feedback they may wish to provide to the ANMF can be relayed via email at Membersupport@anmftas.org.au

The ANMF Tasmanian Branch is 8000 plus members strong! Supporting nurses, midwives, and care workers as the only union in Tasmania employing nurses, midwives 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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