

## ANMF NEWSFLASH

# Launceston General Hospital Intensive Care Unit Benchmarking

On Monday 1 May 2023 the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) members to discuss the proposed ICU Nursing Hours per Patient Day (NHpPD) benchmark for 2023, that was presented to the ANMF by the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) on Wednesday 19 April 2023. The detail of the proposed benchmark is:

- ICU NHpPD is based on a requirement of 1:1 nursing care for ventilated beds. LGH ICU for, the previous 12 months had, on average, a daily occupancy of 7.25 beds. Benchmarking for 2023 will remain at 8 beds unchanged from the 2020 benchmark.
- 3 High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds were retained as per the 2020 benchmark. HDU beds are staffed 1:2.5.
- Given bed data is unchanged there is no change in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for ICU, for 2023.

Discussion was had regarding application of existing access nurses, which will be retained in the 2023 benchmark. THS management were considering a portion of the access nurse FTE being available for allocation as a clinical coach. That by default this would attract a grade 4 classification. Members expressed concerns with this proposal, whilst not being closed to the idea. What was clear though, was concerns around the access nurses being redeployed due to staffing needs in other areas. The ANMF considers that this should not occur as the access nurses are part of base line staffing for ICU.

As a result, the ANMF met with THS management and discussed the access nurse redeployment concern. It was agreed that an internal policy could be drafted to ensure that access nurses and their purpose is clear, capturing



the intent of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN) standard around education of less experienced staff, and that they are not to be routinely deployed to support staffing elsewhere. As what occurs with clinical coaches in other areas, where they are retained and not redeployed.

The ANMF will provide further update regarding the access nurse protocol as information comes to hand.

**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](mailto:membersupport@anmftas.org.au). Email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting the team. Alternatively, you can phone 1800 001 241.

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Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary  
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