



## ANMF NEWSFLASH

# Correctional Primary Health Service South Response to Member's Concerns

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with members recently and raised concerns with management on their behalf. A summary of the questions and responses are provided below.

1. In relation to medication management – is e-prescribing still coming to Correctional Primary Health Service (CPHS)? What was Statewide Mental Health Services' (SMHS') response to the 2022 accreditation recommendations?
  - a. E-prescribing will occur with implementation of the State-wide Department of Health Electronic Management project. The first step for CPHS is moving from Prisoner Health Pro (PHP) on the DMR/IPM platform in use across SMHS. Currently on target for this to occur October/November 2023. 'Work will be undertaken to determine what infrastructure will be required to support the E prescribing in CPHS once this project is operationalised' (Group Director CPHS).
  - b. CPHS is accredited until 1 January 2025.
2. 12-hour roster pattern and concerns raised by members in relation to 'chronic over rostering for the past 10 years.

**The ANMF is currently engaged in conversations with management and Tasmanian Health Service (THS) Human Resources (HR) in relation to this matter and will keep members informed of further updates. The ANMF is seeking a reduction in average rostered hours in order to make the rostering pattern compliant with the *Nurse and Midwives (Tasmanian State Service) Award*. Specifically, moving full time employees from a 72/84/96hrs per**

**fortnight roster pattern to 72/84/72 which we believe would be award compliant and give an averaged 76 hours a fortnight (over 6 weeks) – with no ADO accrual.**

3. Members raised questions in relation to the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) associated with CPHS that hasn't changed in line with additional prisoners.
  - In recent years prisoner numbers have increased with the addition of the Southern Remand Centre (SRC) plus the addition of five new health inpatient beds. We are advised that increases to FTE are:
    - a. 5.76 FTE Registered Nurse (RN).
    - b. 1 FTE Staff Medical Specialist.
    - c. 0.4 FTE Pharmacist.
    - d. 0.6 FTE Pharmacy Technicians.
    - e. 2 FTE Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE).
    - f. 1 FTE Care Worker.

The above positions have either already been recruited to or have a commencement date soon.

SMHS lists Prisoner Mental Health as a key area for future reform and is looking at being able to progress to a full team of multidisciplinary health professionals to provide mental health services and treatment to prisoners (Group Director CPHS). If funding is not provided in the State Health Budget SMHS will progress to resubmission of the funding proposal in October when all health initiatives for the state are tabled (Group Director CPHS).

Through the Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS) reform, which is currently underway, funding has been provided for an ADS consultant/liason to work with CPHS towards developing clinical pathways between ADS and CPHS.

4. The ability for the Tasmanian Prison Service (TPS) to house elderly and disabled prisoners was questioned on the basis of occasions where prisoners have needed to be housed long term in the health inpatient area due to no suitable accommodation elsewhere.

- CPHS are increasingly experiencing challenges in the care, treatment, and accommodation of elderly prisoners. CPHS leadership are aware of this and have initiated the following:
  - a. Raised with the Directors of Prisons. CPHS and TPS also have a monthly interagency meeting.
  - b. CPHS and TPS are awaiting the Custodial Inspection report, which was due late 2022. The focus was on physical health and wellbeing, as well as substance abuse management. CPHS and TPS are awaiting the recommendations that will come with this report.
  - c. 'A strategic review of CPHS priorities which is commencing mid-year, will have as a key outcome the care and treatment of elderly prisoners' (Group Director CPHS). This will be in line with clinical evidence, accreditation, custodial inspectorate standards, and in conjunction with TPS.

The ANMF will arrange a further meeting time to discuss these matters and any further developments in relation to matters currently sitting with THS HR. Once arranged, members will receive an SMS notification. If you have any questions in relation to the above matters other matters at CPHS, please contact Southern Organiser Jenna Bowling Email: [Jenna.Bowling@anmftas.org.au](mailto:Jenna.Bowling@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](mailto:membersupport@anmftas.org.au). Email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting the team. Alternatively, you can phone (03) 6223 6777.

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Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary  
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