



## ANMF NEWSFLASH

# Mersey Community Hospital Medical Ward Benchmarking

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with THS management on 20 September 2023 to seek clarity with regard to benchmarking for Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) Medical Ward members. The discussion centred around the following:

Category B and C is not reflective of palliative patient's needs, does not correlate with like wards in other regions, nor does it correlate to current NHpPD figures presented at the THSNW Nursing and Midwifery Management Working Group. The Nursing Director of Operations committed to review the DRGs used on the ECalculator.

ANMF members noted that although the Medical Ward has been identified as the trial ward for the Extended Support Program in recognition of the high numbers of TTPs and other early career nurses, the Clinical Facilitator allocated to the ward is 1.0 FTE. ANMF members assert that this role is required to ensure safe staffing and to support the current skill mix on the ward. The Clinical Facilitator's FTE should be sufficient to cover day and afternoon shift 7 days per week.

The Bed Utilisation Review Tool shows that 35% of admitted patients are waiting for residential care or NDIS accommodation, noting that the THS liken this to an aged care facility. However, the ANMF notes that members report that patients are heavier and require an increased care requirement due to their comorbidities. In addition, in a RACF or similar, residents have familiar staff and surroundings, along with routines that include diversional therapy and do not share rooms all of which have contributed to the higher care needs on the ward. In recognition a trial of AINs has been undertaken on the ward. ANMF members request that a 25% weighting be applied to AINs. the AIN roster be no greater than 28 hours per day if AINs are included on the night shift roster.



Night shift nursing roster at present is 5 nurses introduced in recognition of the increased nursing needs of palliative patients as well the risk associated with the small number of nurses available for Met Call and Emergency response. This remains an identified risk should the roster overnight decrease. Whilst the potential introduction of a 6pm to 2am shift is under discussion; it would not totally alleviate the risk.

ANMF members note that the benchmarking is for 30 beds however note that frequently there are up to 33 beds filled. Should there be more than 30 patients an extra nurse per shift should be rostered. For the purposes of clarity, 31-33 patients require 1 extra nurse per shift.

The ANMF will seek members' further direction and vote to endorse the 2022-2023 benchmarking data via survey once the data has been provided.

Watch your inbox for details on how to have your say.

**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.**

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Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary  
22 September 2023