

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Mental Health Inpatient Unit (MHIU) Response to ANMF Member's Questions

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with members of the MHIU on two occasions in recent months. Questions raised at these meeting were put to the Nurses Unit Manager (NUM) on both occasions and responses to these questions have now been provided. A summary of these is provided below.

1. **Shift Unit Planner Role.** *Members raised both workload concerns and remuneration concerns in relation to this role.*

In response management have told the ANMF that this position was implemented as part of the 'clinical handover quality improvement project' and consultation occurred in connection with the project, that included floor staff. The purpose is to reduce workload impact by improving communication by adding the role to the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings. Management states it is not a higher duties role.

2. **Changes to Admission Criteria.** *Members raised concerns about an increase in patients who are challenging, that are for a social admission from Forensic Mental Health Services (FMHS) and who require assistance with ADLs where members have further claimed that accommodation in MHIU in terms of the size of the bed spaces, makes care delivery to such patients difficult. Manual handling training to support these patients has also not been provided.*

Management have said that there is an MDT approach to the care of patients who require assistance with ADLs, whereby physiotherapy, occupational therapy and the manual handling team are available to assist. If support provided is insufficient when you are on shift, please talk to the nurse in charge.

3. **Discharge Processes.** *Members reported that discharge processes are sometimes 'frantic' and that there may be opportunities for pre planning some discharges or doing some of the preparation earlier than the 'day of discharge' to ensure optimal outcomes for patients.*



Management's response states that 'MHIU is currently working towards refining out clinical handover process and improving how our team communicates information as an MDT. The goal for these changes is to, wherever possible, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of discharge processes and provide a clearer and smoother discharge pathway for consumers and staff'. Employees are welcome and encouraged to take their suggestions and feedback in relation to these processes to the NUM or CNC.

4. **Workloads.** *Members raised concerns in relation to their workloads and stated that this has occurred as they are often required to attend to non-nursing duties, such as cleaning, restocking and label printing. Members suggested that the addition of both a ward aid and administrative support person to the MHIU would resolve these concerns.*

Management have said that this increase in demand on nurses to attend to non-nursing duties is due to absences in ward clerk and in admin officer roles. However, both positions have now been filled (at the date of the response, which was 11 October 2023) and improvements have already been seen.

Management thanks all staff for their assistance during the period that these positions were vacant.

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.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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