



ANMF NEWSFLASH

North West Regional Hospital and Mersey Community Hospital - Emergency Departments

Patient Searches Update

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF), on behalf of members from North West Emergency Departments, raised nurses' concerns in relation to patient searches in multiple forums. The ANMF and its members strongly believe that it is both inappropriate and dangerous for ANUMs to be tasked with conducting searches or pat-downs for weapons on patients. This responsibility falls outside the scope of nursing duties and poses significant safety risks to our members. Nurses are trained healthcare professionals, not security personnel, and their focus should remain on providing care to patients rather than undertaking potentially hazardous security tasks.

The ANMF is pleased to report the following response has been received from THS NW management.

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2024, on behalf of your Emergency Department members concerning training and responsibilities in relation to patient searches.

I do acknowledge that some Hospitals North West staff have undergone training relating to patient and visitor searches, and this includes our Associate Nurse Unit Managers (ANUMs). However, there was no requirement for staff to attend the training.

I understand your members have interpreted that the training sessions were intending to prepare them to perform these searches themselves. I would like to reassure you that this is not the case and that the training was to



broadly educate staff on the safest way to search a patient or visitor without an endorsement or expectation that staff are then to carry-out these searches as part of their work duties. I apologise if there were miscommunications with regards to the purpose of the training.

The Tasmanian Health Service (THS) North West – Patient and Visitor Search Protocol is currently being reviewed by legal services and a formal update will soon follow.

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
15 July 2024