



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department

Benchmarking and Additional FTE WIN

On **Tuesday 6 August 2024** the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with the Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and the Chief Executive (CE) of Hospitals North to discuss the staffing situation that occurred over the weekend and the previous weekend at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Emergency Department (ED).

The ANMF indicated they had ongoing concerns which they have attempted to resolve over many months in relation to the current staffing levels at the LGH ED and the ANMF maintained the view that the current benchmarking does not include the additional 21.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) that was an agreed outcome of the 2021 Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC) dispute which was raised at that time as a result of the workloads associated with bed block and challenges around access and flow. The Acting Secretary at the Department of Health, agreed to staff to the full complement of the 21.3 FTE albeit it may take some time to get up to the full 21.3 FTE due to the need to fill these positions on a short-term basis with agency staff.

Once the full 21.3 FTE are filled, the staff per shift will be:

Early shift: 26 nursing staff

Late shift: 28 nursing staff

Night shift: 24 nursing staff

The CE of Hospitals North indicated that the approved 10 agency nurses will all be in place in the Department by Saturday 17 August 2024 and further work will occur to ensure that the full complement of the additional 21.3 FTE will be achieved as soon as possible.

At the meeting, the ANMF provided notice to the Secretary of the Department of Health and the CE of Hospitals North that **industrial action will commence**, today **Wednesday 7 August 2024**, at the LGH ED. This is as a result of the workloads associated with the Transfer of Care procedure and that the repeated



calls by the ANMF, on behalf of members, for additional resources to assist with the “corridor” of patients have gone unanswered by both the minister and the Department. The ANMF has indicated that members will be supported to undertake the **“Code Yellow” industrial action** until the resources requested are agreed and implemented.

The ANMF will continue to support members in their industrial action. We will discuss further escalations if positive actions are not immediately undertaken by the Government and Department in implementing these much needed resources to support the additional workloads as a result of the Government's Transfer of Care procedure.

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
7 August 2024