

ANMF NEWSFLASH

North West Regional Hospital Intensive Care Unit Work Health and Safety Concerns

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) received a response on Tuesday 5 November 2024 to the formal notification of Work Health and Safety concerns of members at North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU). THS management have responded to each concern as follows:

- Staff Room Security:** *we acknowledge the concern regarding the lack of a lock or pin code access to the staff room. Minor Works is currently assessing the requirements for installing swipe access in the unit and the access in the unit more broadly. We recognise this as a necessary step to ensure staff safety, and we will keep you updated on progress.*
- Personal Duress Alarms:** *the request for personal duress alarms is being considered as part of a broader review of security measures across the THS. We are committed to working with the team to ensure that appropriate safety protocols are in place. We welcome further discussion with ICU staff to better understand their needs in this regard.*
- Post-Event Debriefing:** *while there is a policy for post-event debriefing following Code Black situations, we acknowledge there have been challenges in consistently facilitating these sessions. We are currently working to ensure a more robust and reliable debriefing process is ongoing in relation to the recent incident referred to, and we will share the outcomes with you once finalised. Meetings with staff were held following the incident and EAP was engaged and attended the Unit following. In the interim, we will arrange a specific debrief for the ICU team in the coming weeks.*



- 4. Pre-Extubation Checklist for Potentially Aggressive Patients:** *We are revising the current checklist to include specific provisions for potentially aggressive patients, as suggested. This checklist will be developed in consultation with ICU Consultants, ICU nurses, and other employees and will undergo a review by the Quality and Safety Team to ensure it is implemented effectively and expediently.*

A meeting with THS management to ensure that all concerns are captured is planned for **Tuesday 12 November 2024**. An ANMF organiser, workplace delegate and some senior ICU nurses will represent your interests at this meeting. Members will be kept informed of progress via newsflash with a further member meeting in coming weeks.

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 November 2024