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Newsflash

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Update on Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department Workload Concerns and Industrial Action

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) visited the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Emergency Department (ED) last night at 1900hrs following urgent contact from members regarding the dire state of workloads across all shifts on Monday 18 November 2024.

Our organiser attended to provide on-the-ground support to members and reported directly to the ANMF Branch Secretary. In response, the Branch Secretary contacted the LGH executive to escalate these critical concerns. Additionally, the ANMF took immediate action by advertising the staffing shortages on our social media platforms, calling on available members to contact the After-Hours Nurse Manager (AHNM) to assist and fill shifts.

We acknowledge the collective effort of members currently engaged in industrial action within the LGH ED to highlight the unsustainable workload pressures.

The ANMF received a formal letter from the LGH requesting a meeting at 1400hrs on Tuesday 19 November 2024 with the Branch Secretary to discuss these issues and requesting the stand-down of industrial action. However, we were later informed that the meeting request was sent in error and would need to be rescheduled.

The ANMF is deeply disappointed with this outcome. Members have demonstrated extraordinary professionalism and resilience under immense pressure, and these delays are unacceptable. We have made it





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clear that industrial action and the current Code Yellow campaign will continue until meaningful steps are taken to resolve the issues impacting the ED.

Stop Work Action will continue see you there!

Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 1400hrs

In addition, the ANMF received correspondence from the Minister for Health and seek to update members specifically in relation to the points raised and response received on relevant issues. Please see below:

The ANMF wishes to provide you with an update regarding recent feedback from the Minister for Health concerning workload and staffing pressures at the LGH ED.

- The Department is currently assessing measures to address these pressures, including:
 - The potential addition of triage, waiting room, and transfer nurses.
 - Additional discharge planning support to facilitate patient flow and reduce workload demands.
- Currently, Nurse Unit Managers (NUMs) are responsible for managing discharge planning. However, the Department is reviewing staffing models to explore adjustments that better align with patient flow and safety needs.
- With respect to staffing at the LGH ED, the Department has committed to funding the agreed-upon workforce model, which includes filling 28.09 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions by January 2025. They have also assured us that staffing requirements will be closely monitored to ensure the model's successful implementation and to provide ongoing support as needed.

The ANMF will continue to advocate for timely action and transparent communication as these initiatives progress. We will also seek timeframes and solid commitments to the above assessment for additional





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resources. While these commitments are a step in the right direction, we will hold the Department accountable to ensure they result in tangible improvements for our members and the patients they care for.

The ANMF remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting members, addressing unsafe workloads, and holding the LGH accountable for delivering safe and sustainable staffing solutions. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, the workload pressures have gone on for far too long!!!

We will continue to keep you updated as this situation progresses. Please don't hesitate to contact your ANMF organiser or Member Support Team if you have any concerns or need assistance.

In solidarity,

The ANMF

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

19 November 2024

