



ANMF NEWSFLASH

North West Regional Hospital Paediatric Ward

Ongoing Concerns Raised with Tasmanian Health Service (THS) Management

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has written to Tasmanian Health Service (THS) North West management on behalf of members working on the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) Paediatric Ward regarding ongoing concerns for staff safety, wellbeing, and patient care.

Members have been caring for a paediatric patient with complex physical and behavioural needs for over four weeks in a social admission context. While members acknowledge efforts being made to secure alternative placement, they remain concerned that the psychological and physical impacts on nursing staff, ward attendants and patients are not being adequately recognised or addressed.

Key issues raised include:

- Ongoing verbal and physical aggression.
- A shift in staff management strategies that may be misinterpreted as a sign of improvement, despite behaviours remaining unchanged.
- Emotional exhaustion, rising anxiety, and concerns about the normalisation of unsafe behaviour.
- Moral distress due to the inability to provide the level of care staff feel patients deserve.



- A lack of urgency and visibility from senior management.

Members also expressed disappointment that practical interim solutions — such as the hospital temporarily funding National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) care workers to provide short-term respite for staff — were rejected. The ANMF has urged management to reconsider these options and outlined five key actions, including increased visibility, acknowledgement of concerns, and improved communication.

The ANMF is committed to supporting members and ensuring their voices are heard. We will continue to advocate for your safety and for the delivery of appropriate care to all patients.

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 Phoebe Mansell, ANMF Tasmanian Acting Branch Secretary
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