

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital Linen Shortage Update

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) wishes to thank all members who have taken the time to complete the linen survey and share detailed, real-world examples of how the ongoing linen shortages are affecting your ability to provide safe and appropriate patient care.

Critical Linen Shortages – The ANMF Raises Concerns with Executive

Members have consistently reported significant and ongoing issues accessing essential linen items, including—but not limited to—**patient gowns, towels, bed sheets, pillowcases, and blankets**. Of particular concern is the severe shortage of patient gowns, with multiple reports of patients left cold and, in some instances, without appropriate coverage—an unacceptable breach of basic standards of dignity, comfort, and wellbeing.

Repeated staff requests for additional linen have often been met with the response that there is simply not enough available. In some cases, staff have been told to use **paper gowns**, which are not only insufficient for warmth and dignity but also an imprest item, requiring approval that further delays care.

Examples provided by members include:

- Inability to provide clean gowns or linen for newly admitted post-operative or post-partum patients.
- Delayed patient care and overnight discomfort due to lack of adequate bedding.
- Use of makeshift or inappropriate substitutes that compromise infection control and patient dignity.



The ANMF has formally written to the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) executive team, outlining these concerns and calling for **an immediate and sustained uplift in linen stock hospital wide**. At a minimum, we are seeking urgent assurance that **every ward receives its full daily quota of linen, without exception and with consistency**.

This ongoing issue is placing unacceptable stress on staff and compromising both patient safety and hospital care standards.

We will update members once a response is received from the executive. In the meantime, please continue to provide data via the **Linen Survey QR code**—your input is essential to ensuring these issues remain visible and prioritised.

✔ Use the QR code provided to report.



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 Phoebe Mansell, ANMF Tasmanian Acting Branch Secretary
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