

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital Hydration Model (Water Jugs) Change Proposal

Thank you to all members who provided feedback on the proposed reintroduction of water jugs and tumblers at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH).

Following the survey responses, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has provided a formal response to management reflecting member views.

What members said:

- Strong support for returning to water jugs – better for patients, safer hydration access, and more environmentally sustainable than bottled water.
- Members highlighted significant cost and waste associated with single-use plastic bottles.
- Many questioned why jugs were ever removed, given they had been an effective system in the past.

Key concerns raised:

- **Water quality:** Many ward taps are not safe for drinking water. Members want guarantees of filtered, safe and accessible water stations before any change occurs.
- **Workload:** Nursing staff must not be made solely responsible for the cleaning and refilling of jugs.
- **Infection control and safety:** Clear protocols are needed for cleaning, replacement, and managing spills to avoid contamination and added workload.
- **Implementation detail:** Members want clarity on storage, supply of clean jugs/cups, and risk assessments for staff transporting heavy containers.



Next steps:

The ANMF has written to management requesting a clear plan to address these concerns before implementation. We will update members when a response is received.

Thank you again for your engagement – your feedback ensures that changes at RHH are safe, sustainable and supportive of both members and patients.

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
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