

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Mersey Community Hospital

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has been made aware of the significant damage sustained to the Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) in Latrobe during the early hours of Friday morning 10 October 2025, following destructive winds of up to 125km/h that swept across northern Tasmania.

We understand that there has been considerable damage to the Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD), Emergency Department (ED), and Antenatal Clinics. Workers are currently on site assessing the damage and identifying urgent repairs required to restore services.

The Department of Health (DoH) has declared a Code Yellow internal emergency, prioritising the safety of patients and staff. Ambulance Tasmania is diverting patients from MCH to North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) in Burnie and Launceston General Hospital (LGH), while a full assessment of the hospital's infrastructure is underway.

Clinical services at MCH are continuing, but capacity is currently impacted. The DoH has advised that:

- Emergency presentations should still be directed to Mersey Community Hospital or Triple Zero (000).
- For non-urgent care, patients are encouraged to contact their GP or attend Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in Devonport or Launceston.

The ANMF is monitoring the situation closely and will continue to advocate for the safety and support of our members working in affected facilities. We are seeking further clarification from the Department regarding:

- The timeline for repairs and restoration of full services
- Staffing impacts
- Support measures for affected healthcare workers.



We understand that the weather damage is so severe that some members may not be able to attend work, as there are many trees over roads and floods that have closed roads. We remind members of their entitlements in the Award as per the below:

Member Entitlements During Natural Disasters

The ANMF reminds members that under the Nurses and Midwives (Tasmanian State Service) Award, employees may be eligible for special leave in circumstances where natural disasters prevent attendance at work. This includes situations such as road closures, flooding, or other emergency conditions that make travel unsafe or impossible. If you are unable to attend work due to these conditions, please contact your manager and the ANMF Member Support Team for guidance. Leave may be granted at the discretion of the employer under special or miscellaneous leave provisions, and alternative work arrangements may also be considered.

We remind all members to please remain vigilant during this time of unprecedented weather and stay safe.

In solidarity.

ANMF Tas Branch

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
10 October 2025