



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital Integrated Operations Centre

Clinical Director IOC Role – Update Following Change Proposal

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) met with members of the Integrated Operations Centre (IOC) at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) following the Department's Change Proposal received on Thursday 21 August 2025, outlining the intention not to retain the Clinical Director IOC role. The ANMF provided detailed feedback to Chief Executive Joe McDonald on behalf of members, strongly opposing the removal of this vital position.

ANMF Member Feedback

Members expressed that the Clinical Director role was established in 2022 in direct response to concerns about insufficient clinical oversight and patient flow challenges. The role has since proven essential in ensuring safe, coordinated, and efficient patient care.

Members highlighted that removing this role would:

- Create a gap in clinical medical leadership and oversight within the IOC;
- Reduce communication and collaboration with consultants and doctors;
- Undermine patient flow, leading to potential safety risks and increased length of stay;
- Leave unclear accountability for clinical decision-making and advice.

Members also noted that the Clinical Director has played a critical role in:

- Negotiating with surgical departments to manage patient flow;

- Supporting rostering and theatre scheduling;
- Managing statewide patient transfers, including cardiac angiography access;
- Guiding admission prioritisation during high-demand periods;
- Addressing medical barriers to discharge and supporting the Integrated Discharge Team.

The ANMF urged the Department to reconsider the proposal, highlighting the importance of retaining medical leadership within the IOC and ensuring the development of any statewide model includes appropriate medical representation.

Department Response

On Thursday 30 October 2025, Chief Executive Joe McDonald advised that:

- A broad range of feedback was received during consultation and is under review by the Secretary of the Department of Health (DoH);
- While a final determination is being considered, the Clinical Director IOC role will be extended on a fixed-term basis;
- Staff will be notified once a final decision has been made.

Next Steps

This outcome represents a positive step forward and recognition of the concerns raised by the ANMF and members. The ANMF will now seek clarification regarding the duration of the fixed-term extension and continue to advocate to ensure that the hospital maintains appropriate clinical oversight, patient safety, and effective decision-making within the IOC.

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

31 October 2025