



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Statewide Mental Health Services Rodent Infestation at Peacock House

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) writes to update members about the rodent infestation and subsequent closure at Peacock House. We have been monitoring the situation and can provide the following updates and advice.

Rats in the Roof

Serious concerns were raised regarding the noxious odours emanating from several of the patient rooms. On further investigation what appeared to be rodent urine stains was observed on the ceiling tiles on those rooms.

Through the prompt action and advocacy of members, as well as Statewide Mental Health Services (SMHS), the rooms were closed, and appropriate services were notified to begin the process of ensuring a safe, rodent free working environment.

Pest control reportedly found and subsequently removed 2 rodent carcasses from the roof above the rooms in question. Subsequent reports point to the presences of many more carcasses remaining in the roof.

Peacock House Closure

SMHS have commenced closing beds as patients are discharged, with a view to having the facility empty by Monday 24 November 2025. Staffing levels were maintained over the weekend.

At that point the facility will be closed for at least the next 2 weeks while works can commence to clear out the rodent infestation, repair or replace any damage and ensure that the site is safe for normal operation to resume.



Staffing Redeployment

While the restoration works are undergone, clinical staff will be redeployed to other areas within the service.

The ANMF is seeking clarification around the supports being provided to those staff redeployed to new areas. This includes:

- What orientation/supernumerary shifts are being offered?
- If staff are redeployed to a site that has 12-hour shift, given the staff members contract specifies 8-hour shifts, will those extended hours be paid at an overtime rate?
- If a staff member has a shift redeployed to an area that they are currently holding a casual contract at, which rate is that shift to be paid at?
- What guarantee is being provided for casual staff who have booked shifts at Peacock House?

Staff are also being given the option of taking annual leave if desired as well.

The Next Two Weeks

The ANMF, working with SMHS, is supporting members through this period to be able to ensure that, leading into the Christmas period, no member is financially worse off due to this closure.

The ANMF will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates throughout.

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
24 November 2025