



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital

Proposed Patient Safety Assistants (PSA) Reductions

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has been advised that the Department is potentially looking to reduce the use of Patient Safety Assistants (PSA) across the service.

In response, the ANMF has written to the Acting Executive Director (AED) of Nursing and Midwifery to formally raise serious concerns about the potential impact of any reductions to these important roles.

In December 2025, the ANMF became aware of a directive to cease the use of Community Based Support (CBS) as a cost-saving measure. This was concerning, as CBS staff were regularly utilised to fill gaps in PSA coverage when required.

At the time, it was ANMF's understanding that a casual pool of PSA was being established to ensure these essential patient safety roles could continue to be filled. However, members have since raised concerns about ongoing shortages and reduced PSA availability.

PSA play a critical role in supporting safe care delivery, particularly for patients requiring close supervision and assistance. Any reduction in this workforce may increase risks for patients and place additional pressure on nursing and midwifery staff already managing high clinical demands.

The ANMF has requested clarification from management regarding the rationale for these proposed changes, what alternative arrangements may be implemented, and how patient and staff safety will be maintained moving forward.



The ANMF will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of members and patients and will provide a further update once a response has been received.

If you have any questions or wish to raise further concerns, please contact your ANMF representative.

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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