



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department Wednesday 4 March 2026

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has today issued a public media release following further catastrophic reports from Launceston General Hospital (LGH) Emergency Department (ED) nurses overnight (Monday 2 – Tuesday 3 March 2026), confirming that the ED is operating at critical overcapacity with unsafe staffing levels and escalating risks to both staff and patients.

MEDIA DOORSTOP – MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND

WHAT: Media Call.

WHEN: 1330hrs, Wednesday 4 March 2026.

WHERE: LGH Front Entrance – Charles Street.

WHO: ANMF Branch Secretary Emily Shepherd and ANMF ED delegates.

ED members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and stand with ANMF Branch Secretary Emily Shepherd as she addresses media on the unfolding crisis and the urgent need for intervention in relation to:

- The unsafe and unsustainable conditions experienced in the ED overnight (Monday 2 – Tuesday 3 March 2026).
- The extreme overcrowding including double bunking, patients in chairs, corridors, and the airlock.
- The 35 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) nursing vacancies and escalating burnout.
- The unacceptable expectation that nurses continue to carry the burden of a failing system, and,
- The urgent actions the ANMF is calling on the Government to deliver.

Your presence underscores the seriousness of the situation and demonstrates the collective strength of ED nurses demanding safe conditions for staff and patients.

WHY WE'RE SPEAKING OUT

Reports from Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March 2026, alone included:

- **64 patients** in the ED with only **33 safe clinical spaces**.
- **41 admitted patients** with nowhere safe to go.
- **Patients in the airlock, corridors, and double bunked spaces.**
- **Average length of stay exceeding 40 hours.**
- **25 nurses rostered instead of 28 for the Tuesday 3 March 2026 PM shift.**

These circumstances are not “one-offs” — they have become the LGH’s **normal operating mode**. Nurses are exhausted, burnt out, and carrying risk that should never be theirs to bear.

MASS MEMBER MEETING – REMINDER

Wednesday 4 March 2026 – LGH Lecture Theatre

The mass meeting originally scheduled to discuss the Public Sector Agreement will now also consider:

- Urgent safety directives.
- Collective actions to protect staff and patients.
- Strategies for responding to entrenched over-capacity, and,
- Expectations for immediate intervention from the Department.

Further updates to follow.

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
6 March 2026