



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital 6A Trauma and Acute Surgical Unit Update Following Benchmarking Meeting – 10 March 2026

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) attended the benchmarking meeting for 6A Trauma & Acute Surgical Unit (TASU) this morning Tuesday 10 March 2026 to represent member concerns and ensure that the service's growing acuity and workload pressures were clearly articulated.

The current Tasmanian Health Service (THS) proposal includes; maintaining existing benchmarked staffing levels, reducing one Registered Nurse (RN) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and increasing one Enrolled Nurse (EN) FTE as the only staffing model change – no uplift in staffing despite the unit now functioning with all Level A beds – no Level B beds, with significantly increased acuity and behavioural complexity.

The ANMF Raised Key Concerns on Behalf of Members

Throughout consultation and in today's meeting, the ANMF escalated several issues consistently reported by 6A members:

- **Increase in Patient Acuity Without Corresponding Increase in Staffing**
Complex trauma, acute surgical presentations, behavioural risks, and higher dependency care (including SCOUT patients, TBI patients, and Department of Critical Care Medicine (DCCM) step-downs) continue to rise.
- **Float Nurse Role Not Functioning as Intended**
Members reiterated that the **float nurse should not carry a patient load**, and that the current model prevents effective support during peak acuity, staff absence, or deteriorating patient events.

- **Assistant in Nursing Workforce Valued — But Limited on PM and Night Duty**

Members report strong support for the addition of Assistants in Nursing (AINs) to the team. However, they note inconsistent rostering of AINs on PM and night shifts, when patient observation and behavioural risks often escalate.

- **Ongoing Concerns About Skill Mix – Especially RN:EN Ratios on Nights**

Members highlighted that the proposed staffing changes — including the reduction of **one RN FTE** and the increase of **one EN FTE** — worsen existing concerns about maintaining safe RN coverage overnight. This is particularly significant given the unit's increasing acuity and behavioural risk profile.

THS Response

The THS acknowledged feedback raised by the ANMF and members. Despite this, the THS confirmed:

- They propose to maintain the current benchmarked staffing levels.
- The only change is the reduction of one RN FTE and increase of one EN FTE.
- No further staffing uplift is planned, even with the shift to an entirely Level A bed profile and rising acuity indicators.

The ANMF does not support reductions in RN skill mix in a trauma and acute surgical environment where complexity continues to increase.

Next Steps – ANMF Member Survey

Before the ANMF finalises its formal response to the THS, we need your views.

Please complete the linked **short survey**. Your feedback directly guides the ANMF's position and advocacy in the next stage of benchmarking discussions. Please complete the linked survey by **1700hrs Wednesday 18 March 2026**.

Survey: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019cd6208e4873a08e178a7a4963bc42>

Once responses are collected, the ANMF will provide members with a follow-up briefing and outline the next steps in the campaign to ensure safe, sustainable staffing on 6A TASU.



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
11 March 2026