

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Public Sector Emergency Departments Paramedic Industrial Action – What Members Need to Know

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has today been advised of **industrial action being taken by paramedics**. As part of this action, paramedics have commenced **transporting and transferring all patients who call 000 to hospital Emergency Departments (EDs)**.

What the ANMF has done today

Upon becoming aware of the pending industrial action, the **ANMF immediately made urgent enquiries** with the Secretary of the Department of Health (DoH) regarding the potential impact on EDs.

The Deputy Secretary has advised the ANMF that the industrial action is **not having any impact**. The ANMF is cautious with this advice having heard that some departments are seeing this industrial action impact them. The ANMF has raised these concerns directly and will continue to monitor this matter with urgency.

Transfer of Care (ToC) – Status Quo Remains:

The ANMF reminds members that:

- The **ToC dispute remains before the Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC)**.
- **Status quo continues to apply**.
- There is **no change** to current ToC arrangements.

Importantly, **the Department has agreed and indicated** that **while the ToC dispute is before the TIC, nurses are not to be blocked from clinical decision-making** when it comes to the offloading and care of patients transferring into EDs.



The ANMF expects this commitment to be upheld during this period of paramedic Industrial Action.

What members should do:

The ANMF strongly advises members to:

- **Continue to exercise professional clinical judgement at all times.**
- **Prioritise patient safety and appropriate care.**
- **Not allow unsafe time pressures to override clinical decision-making.**
- **Document and report concerns (both on internal systems and advise the ANMF),** including:
 - Unsafe workloads.
 - Delays or pressures related to offloading.
 - Any direction that undermines clinical judgement.

Members should escalate concerns through usual channels and advise their **ANMF delegate or organiser** where issues arise.

What these highlights:

This situation once again highlights the consequences of **chronic under resourcing** with regard to access and flow initiatives.

When services are not staffed with the **right number of nurses and midwives**, pressures quickly escalate, resulting in impacts on patient flow, staff safety, and quality of care.

Industrial action in another part of the system only further exposes the fragility of a system already under strain.

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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