



ANMF NEWSFLASH

The ANMF Taking Urgent Action on Unsafe Conditions at the LGH

ANMF Members at the LGH Have Told us Enough is Enough

The Launceston General Hospital (LGH) continues to operate under extreme capacity pressures, with persistent overcrowding in the Emergency Department (ED) and ongoing demand exceeding the hospital's available inpatient capacity. Despite repeated warnings from frontline nurses and midwives, and despite the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) raising these issues over a significant period of time, meaningful action to address the underlying causes of these problems has not occurred.

Instead, members have advised the ANMF that a proposal is being pursued to move admitted patients out of the ED and into wards and units that are already at capacity, based on anticipated discharges that have not yet occurred.

Whilst the ANMF understands that members in the ED need respite the ANMF have made it clear to the Department of Health that we do not see increasing the risk to patients and staff right across the hospital, further eroding their industrial entitlements, is a viable or safe option.

The ANMF's view is clear: **this is not a solution to the LGH's access and flow problems and broader measures are needed, not knee jerk reactions. Actual solutions.**

For years, ANMF members have identified practical solutions to improve patient flow and reduce access block at the LGH with the State and Federal Governments. We have repeatedly raised concerns regarding hospital-



wide capacity management, workforce shortages, staffing levels and demand escalation processes. Unfortunately, many of these concerns and proposed strategies have not been acted upon.

Now, rather than addressing the root causes of ongoing ED overcrowding, nurses and midwives are being told that additional patients will simply be placed into already full clinical areas.

This is unacceptable.

The ANMF believes this proposal further breaches the intent and operation of the **Nurses and Midwives (Tasmanian State Service) Agreement**, under which safe staffing arrangements are an employer obligation.

The ANMF is tired of nurses and midwives across all areas bearing the brunt of the Tasmanian Governments failure to address these systemic access, flow and capacity issues.

The ANMF are liaising with the Department of Health and considering industrial avenues to address these matters.

What You Can Do

If you are working at the LGH and have experienced:

- Patients being placed in corridors, treatment rooms or other non-traditional care areas in ED and in Ward and Units.
- Patient numbers exceeding ward or unit census levels.
- Unsafe staffing levels in all areas.
- Missed care or delayed care arising from workload pressures.
- Increased workloads associated with ED access block and overcrowding.

Lodge a Safety Reporting and Learning System (SRLS).



Please provide information to the ANMF as soon as possible.

Member evidence is critical in supporting our advocacy and any proceedings before the Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC).

We will keep members updated as this matter progresses.

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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