

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital 7A, 2J, DCCM, IOC, Casual Pool, 3A, 2A, K10West, K9West, K9East, K8West & 6A Neurology and Stroke Change Proposal – Member Feedback and the ANMFs' Response

Thank you to all members who provided feedback regarding the proposed establishment of a dedicated Neurology and Stroke service on Ward 7A.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has now responded to the Department outlining members' feedback and concerns regarding the proposed change.

The ANMF acknowledges the intent behind the proposal and recognises the potential benefits of establishing a dedicated Neurology and Stroke service, including improved access to specialised expertise and the potential to provide more consistent and appropriate care for neurological and stroke patients.

However, members have identified a number of matters that need to be addressed before the change can progress.

Key Concerns Raised by Members

- Model of Care for Ward 7A

The primary concern raised by Ward 7A members is that there is currently no developed model of care for the proposed Neurology and Stroke service.

The ANMF has requested that the model of care be developed and shared with members and the ANMF as part of the consultation process, including sufficient opportunity for members to provide feedback.



The ANMF's position is that the change proposal should remain in consultation until the model of care is developed and members have had an opportunity to properly consider and provide feedback on it.

- **Where Will Other Patients be Cared For?**

Members have also raised significant concerns about where the other subspecialty patient cohorts currently cared for on Ward 7A will be accommodated.

In particular, the ANMF has sought clarity regarding:

- Which specific medical and Surgical and Perioperative Services (SPS) wards will receive these patients.
- The anticipated increase in patient numbers and workload for receiving wards.
- What staffing will be provided.
- What education and clinical support will be available; and,
- How patient and staff safety will be maintained.

The ANMF has requested clarity regarding the proposed arrangements for Gastroenterology patients, including the advice that these patients will no longer be cared for on Ward 7A and will continue to access medical and surgical wards, with SPS developing a cohorted solution.

The ANMF has requested that this solution be included as part of the change proposal and consultation.

- **Education, Staffing and Workload**

Members have emphasised that appropriate education, competency development and protected time to undertake education must be provided before staff are expected to care for new or more complex patient cohorts.

The ANMF has also raised concerns regarding the impact on receiving wards, including Ward 2J, where members are already experiencing workload concerns.

The ANMF has requested that existing workload concerns are appropriately addressed before additional patient cohorts, including Renal patients, are transferred to these wards.

Consultation Remains Ongoing

The ANMF has reiterated to the Department that, in accordance with the four-stage change and consultation process under the *Nurses and Midwives (Tasmanian State Service) Award*, the proposal remains within Stage Two – Consultation.

The ANMF will continue to advocate for genuine and meaningful consultation, ensuring members have the information required to understand the proposed changes and provide informed feedback.

The ANMF has requested a response addressing the concerns raised by members, including:

- The proposed Ward 7A model of care.
- Staffing and workload requirements.
- Education and protected education time.
- Medical and after-hours support and escalation arrangements.
- Arrangements for post-thrombolysis and post-clot retrieval patients.
- The proposed Gastroenterology solution.
- The specific wards that will receive subspecialty patients no longer allocated to Ward 7A; and,
- The staffing, education and support arrangements for those receiving wards.

The ANMF will provide members with a further update once a response is received and will continue to consult with members as the proposal progresses.

Thank you to all members who have provided feedback. Your input has directly informed the ANMF's response and will continue to guide our advocacy throughout the consultation process.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the ANMF Member Support Team on **(03) 6223 6777**.

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
21 August 2026