

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital Members ED Staffing Shortfalls – The ANMF Seeks Answers

Significant staffing shortfalls

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has formally raised concerns with the Department following reports from Emergency Department (ED) members about significant staffing shortfalls and the impact this is having across Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH).

Members reported that on the evening of **Friday 25 September 2026**, the ED was:

- **5 nurses short from 22:30**
- **11 nurses short from 02:30**

Members also reported that nurses from other wards were directed to attend the ED to provide additional support.

While the ANMF recognises the significant pressures experienced in ED, moving nurses from other clinical areas when those wards are also operating with limited staffing creates a flow-on effect across RHH.

Removing a skilled nurse from another ward can leave that area without adequate staffing and potentially compounds workforce and patient safety concerns across the hospital.

Why wasn't a Code Yellow called?

The ANMF have also raised concerns that, despite the significant staffing shortfall, a Code Yellow signifying an internal emergency was not called.

A text message seeking additional nurses was sent to a large group of people, including nurses who are retired or no longer working within the Tasmanian Health Service (THS).



The ANMF has formally asked the Department to explain:

Why was a Code Yellow not called when the ED was experiencing these significant staffing shortfalls?

The ANMF has also sought reassurance that where the ED experiences significant and sustained staffing deficits, a Code Yellow will be supported and appropriately utilised as an escalation process, rather than relying on nurses being pulled from other wards and potentially creating further staffing shortages elsewhere.

What happens next?

The ANMF will continue to pursue a formal response from the Department and seek clarity about the escalation processes that will apply when staffing falls significantly below the required level.

ED benchmarking proposal endorsed

Following consultation with ED members, the ANMF can confirm that members support the proposed benchmarking documents presented on **Wednesday 23 September 2026**.

The ANMF has therefore formally endorsed the benchmarking documents as presented.

This is an important step towards providing an improvement in clinical coaching resources for the ED. However, members have made it clear that there are ongoing concerns about what happens when staffing falls significantly below the benchmark.

The benchmarking documents establish the staffing requirements — but there must also be an effective process to respond when those staffing requirements cannot be met.

The ANMF will update members once a response is received.

ANMF – Stronger Together.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact ANMF Member Support 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
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