



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital K9E

Members Commencing Action – Altered Airway Patients and Procedural Sedation

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) has formally notified the Department of member-endorsed industrial action

Following the K9East ANMF member meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2026, the ANMF has formally notified the Department that industrial action by K9East members will commence on Wednesday 21 October 2026.

The action is:

Nurses from Ward K9East will refuse to attend the Interventional Suite to provide nursing care for patients with an altered airway undergoing sedated procedures until an agreed Model of Care has been developed.

Why are Members Taking This Action?

Members have raised concerns about the safety of caring for patients with an altered airway undergoing sedated procedures and the need for a clear, agreed Model of Care.

These concerns are consistent with the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and Faculty of Pain Medicine PG09(G) Guideline on Procedural Sedation 2023, which identifies airway management as a major risk associated with procedural sedation.



The guideline also highlights the importance of:

- Appropriate staffing based on the level of sedation, complexity of the procedure and the patient's health status.
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for staff involved in sedation.
- Appropriate airway management skills and support.
- Consideration of the patient's airway during pre-sedation assessment; and,
- Consideration of the capability of the facility and the environment in which sedation is undertaken.

Members are seeking a Model of Care that ensures these considerations are appropriately addressed for patients with altered airways undergoing sedated procedures.

What are Members Seeking?

The ANMF has requested that the Department urgently commence consultation to develop an agreed Model of Care with the clinicians who have the relevant expertise and are directly involved in this care.

The proposed consultation includes:

- Altered airway-trained K9East representatives.
- An Anaesthetics representative.
- A Medical Imaging representative.
- The gastrostomy nurse.

The purpose of the Model of Care is to establish clear responsibilities, clinical processes and appropriate support arrangements, with patient and staff safety as the priority.

What Happens now?

The ANMF has requested written confirmation from the Department regarding its proposed next steps and timeframe for commencing consultation.



The ANMF will continue to support K9East members throughout this process and will keep members informed of any developments.

This action is about ensuring there is an agreed, safe and appropriate Model of Care for patients with altered airways and the nurses caring for them.

Thank you to all K9East members for your ongoing advocacy and commitment to patient and staff safety.

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 October 2026