

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation Tasmania

ANMF NEWSFLASH

Royal Hobart Hospital
Emergency Medical Unit and Emergency Department
Emergency Medical Unit Staffing Cuts
Members to Take Stop Work Action

Thank you to all members who attended the meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2026, where the proposed Emergency Medical Unit (EMU) staffing changes were discussed at length.

Members raised significant concerns about the impact of the proposed reductions on workload, staffing capacity, patient flow and the ability to provide safe nursing care.

Those concerns were put directly to management at the Benchmarking meeting held on Monday 26 October 2026. Unfortunately, management has decided to proceed with the proposed staffing model.

What is Being Proposed?

In brief, management is proposing to reduce nursing staffing in EMU by:

- **1 nurse on AM shifts on weekends** – reducing from 7 to 6.
- **1 nurse on PM shifts, 7 days a week** – reducing from 7 to 6; and,
- **1 nurse on night duty, 7 days a week** – reducing from 6 to 5.

The proposal represents an **11.65% reduction in employable Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)**, from 40.00 FTE to 35.34 FTE.

The benchmarking proposal also reduces the direct-care nursing hours from the current **1,261 hours per week to 1,083 hours per week**.



The proposal is particularly concerning given the role the EMU plays in supporting patient flow from the Emergency Department (ED). The benchmarking paper itself acknowledges the high level of activity and turnover within the EMU, with approximately 33 – 34 patients moving through the unit each day.

Members Have Said NO to Cutting Frontline Staffing

At the meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2026, members endorsed taking industrial action if the proposed staffing model was not changed, in recognition of the serious implications these cuts could have for staff workload, safe patient care and basically obstructing the facilitation of the access and flow of patients in and out of the ED.

As management has now confirmed that it intends to proceed, **ED and EMU members will undertake a 30-minute stop work on:**

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2026

1345hrs – 1415hrs

Corner of Liverpool & Argyle Streets

Opposite Dumpling World

Media Will be Invited to Attend.

The ANMF and members will be speaking with the media and distributing campaign material to the community to raise awareness of the proposed cuts and the potential impact on frontline services.

This is a **stop work action for ED and EMU members**.

Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) members who would like to show their solidarity are also invited to attend during their lunch break. While the proposed cuts are specifically within EMU, the consequences of reducing frontline staffing have the potential to be felt across the service.



We Need Your Voice

The ANMF is also seeking member feedback about the proposed staffing model and current workload concerns.

Please complete the survey via the link below and have your say by 1400hrs Friday 6 November 2026.

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/01a17ae0778e7302a3ede36dc324679c

Your feedback is important in helping the ANMF understand the current workload impacts and members' concerns about the proposed staffing reductions.

Please Complete the Survey and Stand with Your Colleagues

Frontline nurses need safe staffing to safely care for patients.

Thursday 29 October | 1345hrs – 1415hrs | Corner Liverpool & Argyle Streets

Come along and help raise public awareness of the concerns about cutting frontline staffing.

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
27 October 2026