

Aged Care COVID Update

Baptcare

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) wrote to Baptcare management to seek an update on information in relation to your facility and their response to the current Omicron COVID-19 situation in the Tasmanian community, including the impact this is having on you and the subsequent care of residents.

The ANMF have received the following response from your employer:

Baptcare continues to place the safety and wellbeing of its employees as our highest priority. I assure the ANMF that Baptcare have outbreak management plans in place, and we have implemented and undertaken all appropriate measures to ensure the appropriate PPE and sanitation measures are in place for our staff. We continue to support our staff in accessing RAT and PCR tests and vaccinations.

Baptcare are currently heavily focused on managing outbreaks across both Victoria and Tasmania, and our efforts are organisational wide. We thank you for your understanding as we continue to focus our energies on our people, including our vulnerable residents and community members.

If you feel you are not getting the support you need from your employer, or the information provided is contradictory to what you are experiencing, please advise the ANMF via our member support team so we can take further action with the facility via membersupport@anmftas.org.au.

Further, as the Aged Care Sector is a Commonwealth responsibility, the ANMF Federal Acting Secretary Lori-Ann Sharp will be meeting with the Commonwealth to raise concerns and call for action:

1. To address the poor booster shot roll out in aged care
2. Ensuring that there is sufficient PPE in all aged care facilities
3. Enable access to Rapid Antigen Testing for all staff and visitors
4. To make available surge staffing availability

The ANMF (Tasmanian Branch) is collaborating with the Tasmanian Department of Health on behalf of Aged Care members via the State COVID Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) stakeholder meetings. The ANMF will continue to raise matters that the Department of Health can do to assist Aged Care Facilities such as training, education and advice.

The ANMF Tasmanian Branch is 8000 plus members strong! Supporting nurses, midwives, and care workers as the only union in Tasmania employing nurses 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.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Member Support Team via email on membersupport@anmftas.org.au. Email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting the team. Alternatively, you can phone 1800 001 224.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
21 January 2022