

Emergency Department (ED) Royal Hobart Hospital

Bed Block – Care of Psychiatry Patients in the ED

ANMF met with members in the Emergency Department of the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) on Friday April 21 in relation to concerns about the increased length of stay of patients admitted under the Department of Psychiatry (DoP) bed card in the ED.

Members realise that this is a complex problem, largely involving bed block at the RHH. To ensure safe patient care in the department ANMF members put forward the following short term solutions:

- a) Access to the causal pool of Mental Health Nurses to take a patient load of those patients allocated to Psychiatry.
- b) Support for the Psychiatric Emergency Nurse (PEN) by the provision of Mental Health Nurses from the established pool.
- c) Further integration of Drug and Alcohol services in ED through the PEN.
- d) PEN is delegated the responsibility for assessing the need and quantity of Mental Health Nurses to be utilised in the ED.
- e) The creation of a dedicated Mental Health Assessment Unit within the ED

Members feel that these short term solutions will help to ensure that DoP patients in the Emergency Department will receive adequate care when they have an increased wait for an in-patient bed due to bed block at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

ANMF has written to management putting forward members solutions and will continue to visit ED on a regular basis to monitor the situation and to inform members of management's response.

If you have any concerns or questions you would like answered please contact Tristan Streefland, ANMF Organiser via email; Tristan.Streefland@anmftas.org.au.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd (Acting Branch Secretary)
24 April 2017