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Southern Cross Care Don't Care - ANMF call for fair pay for nurses and care workers

ANMF is currently bargaining with Southern Cross Care for a new Enterprise Agreement covering all staff. Unfortunately, negotiations have broken down with a final offer removing agreed back pay, reducing conditions, and offering less than the minimum wage increase.

“ANMF members working at Southern Cross Care have indicated to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmanian Branch, that they feel undervalued by their employer” states Mrs Neroli Ellis, ANMF Tasmania Branch Secretary.

Despite being one of the largest Aged Care providers in the State, Southern Cross Care have offered their staff a ‘wage increase’ that falls below the percentage increase offered by many other small employers. Ultimately, this means in real dollar value, workers will be falling behind in their wages.

ANMF members working for Southern Cross Care are becoming increasingly frustrated with their employer. These workers are delivering care to some of the most vulnerable in our community, but are not made to feel worthy of a decent pay rise.

While ANMF members are traditionally reluctant to take industrial action, Southern Cross Care staff feel they have been left with little other option. Members have indicated their intention to engage in an industrial campaign in an attempt to improve the offer. A Protected Action Ballot (PAB) has been mailed out by the AEC in order to identify if a majority of members wish to take this action. ANMF are awaiting the results of this ballot.

“How can we attract people to work in aged care when you could get the same, if not better pay working in a take away food shop? Aged Care needs good workers, and good workers need decent salaries,” said Mrs Ellis.

“If Southern Cross Care continue to undervalue their staff by not increasing their wages sufficiently and reducing conditions, this will ultimately have a negative impact on the care being provided to residents. New workers will not want to begin careers in the industry with Southern Cross Care and as a result, good, qualified workers will be hard to come by.”

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