

9 August 2017

## **ANMF Nurses and Care Staff commence industrial action at Southern Cross Care Tasmania**

Members of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmanian Branch working at Southern Cross Care Tasmania (SCCT) sites across the state commenced industrial action today. This action is in pursuit of a fair offer for the new Agreement from their employer.

From 7am on Wednesday 9 August, ANMF members have been wearing campaign badges and handing out information flyers to residents and family members in order to raise community awareness to the concerning situation Nurses and Care staff face, with their current poor wages and conditions and the unacceptable offer from SCCT.

ANMF Branch Secretary Neroli Ellis said, "The current offer by SCCT is simply not good enough. The proposed cut to redundancy entitlements, renegeing on the offer of back pay and the low wage offer of 2% in 2018 and 2% in 2019 for staff, does not speak to the importance of supporting and attracting quality staff into the aged care sector".

"Our members look after some of the most vulnerable, frail people in our community and are not being recognised for it. Care Staff with Certificate III qualifications are being paid seven cents an hour less than equivalent workers employed as hairdressers under the Hair and Beauty Industry Award 2010."

"Meanwhile SCCT's Annual Report for 2015-2016 reveals that the organisation is in a strong financial position and their cash position has improved considerably from the prior year, by \$24 million."

Industrial action commenced today and will continue until an acceptable offer is made. A further negotiation meeting is scheduled for 17 August in an attempt to secure a fair deal.

"ANMF and our members wish to reassure residents and family members that this action will not impact on the quality of care received. However, this action is necessary to ensure that some of our hardest working community members are recognised for the work they do."

"End"

**Media contact:**

Neroli Ellis

0408 037 589

neroli.ellis@anmftas.org.au