

Anita Dow

Labor Member for Braddon

19 March 2024

Emily Shepherd
Secretary
ANMF Tasmania

Dear Emily,

ANMF Election Manifesto

Thank you for sharing your members election manifesto with me. The Labor party has been well informed of these priorities having heard them directly from your members over 10 long years of a Liberal government.

On behalf of the Labor party, I acknowledge your member's courage and advocacy on shining a light on significant health issues on behalf of all Tasmanians. It is no secret that Labor is focused on health, housing and cost of living as our priorities in this election. I would also like to point to our team of candidates with expertise in the health sector – particularly Will Gordon – ANMF paediatric nurse running in Bass and Carole McQueeney former nurse running in Lyons.

As Shadow Health, Mental Health and Ageing Minister and as a former nurse myself, I am pleased to share our health and state service election priorities with your members.

A Rebecca White Labor Government is committed to:

Resourcing our Hospitals

- Funding the build of two elective surgery centres – one in Launceston (private/public) and one in Hobart (public). This will make a real impact on health waitlists, with 20 beds dedicated to the LGH to be brought online in 2025 and 24 beds for Hobart in 2027.
- Resourcing 18 regional and rural hospitals to provide 24/7 emergency care and to increase bed capacity (currently at 50%) with staffing of nurse practitioners, clinical coaches, rural generalist doctors, allied health professionals, nurses and administrative staff. We will attract health professionals to these roles by offering 150 positions a HECS/HELP debt waiver or \$20k

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superannuation boost if agreeing to work in one of the hospitals for 3 years. There will also be a \$60m infrastructure fund to upgrade facilities.

- We will put RHH, LGH and NWRH redevelopments at the top of funding list for Federal Government and bring timeframes forward. The Federal Health Minister has received no requests for funding from the current State Govt for these projects worth over \$1b and we must secure it as a priority in order to deliver these much needed improvements and bed capacity sooner than 2034 and 2050.
- Labor will be employing 32 new hospital flow staff around the state including – Psychiatric Evaluation Nurses (PENs) in EDs, Transfer Initiative Nurses, Patient Flow Commanders and Discharge Planners to assist with safe admission and discharge planning.
- We have heard first hand how important radiology, pathology and pharmacy operating as 24/7 services in our hospitals is to the entire system. Labor sees this as an absolute priority to relieve pressure on all our hospitals. We will get to work with the workforce as a priority on what this service needs to look like and to fund it as a priority in our first budget.

Supporting our Health Workforce

- We will include extended hours childcare centres and staff gyms in to each of the 3 masterplans of the RHH, LGH and NWRH for hospital staff to access.
- Currently, up to 25% of Government health workers are fixed term or casual. A Rebecca White Labor Government will offer 500 fixed-term and casual health workers permanent jobs. We will put a stop to the casualisation of the health workforce, which has forced hundreds of talented health workers out of our state.
- We will offer 30 packages to nurses taking up nurse practitioner study, by offering up to \$30,000 to cover course fees and clinical practice. And create 30 new Nurse Practitioner positions within the Health system in addition to the 90 announced as a part of our Regional Health Plan.
- We will pay the uni fees of up to 320 new health workers including:
 - 200 nurses and midwives
 - 50 allied health professionals
 - 40 paramedics
 - 30 nurse practitioners (above)

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If this initiative is proven to support recruitment, the program will be extended each year over the term to recruit up to 1200 new health workers.

This will cover the course costs for students to attend university or pay the uni debt of graduates who agree to work for in the Tasmanian health or education systems for 3 years.

- A Labor Government will pay for clinical placements for of up to 3 weeks for 200 nurses or midwife students.
- We will work with the ANMF and HACSU on safe staffing models for the term of government for nurses and midwives. The current reliance on the goodwill of staff to do excessive overtime must stop.
- We will hold a Workforce Summit within the first year – inviting workers, unions, the university, business, the community sector and community leaders to speak to address service delivery and workforce planning – including recruitment and retention of our valuable health workers.
- We will remove gags on public servants who have less rights than other citizens to participate in political processes and provide whistleblower protections.
- Staff wellbeing and support is also a key priority of a Labor Government. We will work with you to develop a model of mental health and wellbeing support above what is offered in EAP including looking at peer support models, trauma leave and clinical support.

Mental Health Services

- We will provide 12 additional dedicated Mother Baby beds across the state (NW, Lton and Hobart) with community programs for families experiencing perinatal exhaustion, feeding and sleeping difficulties and postnatal mental health challenges. In addition to the current 3 beds in Hobart. We will also progress the statewide review of maternity services.
- We will reintroduce Psychiatric Emergency Nurses (PENs) back in to our EDs with 8 initial positions.
- Labor will commit to expanding the Community Rapid Response Mental Health Service (formerly PACER) statewide, by creating a permanent presence in the NW and North.
- Labor will work to establish dedicated youth mental health beds across the state.

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Better Community Care

- We will immediately double Hospital in the Home beds for elderly patients cared for as admitted hospital patients in their home from 22 to 44 beds and look to move to 100 beds within a year.
- We will hire 46 extra community nurses to work in 23 Community Health Centres. Nurses will help to provide free health checks in Community Health Centres – adult health checks, pre-school health check and teenager health check. As well as palliative care community nursing and home visits.
- Labor is committed to an additional \$8m a year to fund school health nurses, social workers and psychologists for our schools.
- We will work with the ANMF on appropriate funding and a workforce plan for community nursing positions including the Child Health Parenting Service and a comparison of salary rates across states.
- In Launceston, we will establish a women's' health clinic service dedicated to Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain. And increase funding to organisations providing specialised services in endometriosis and pelvic pain
- In addition, we will establish contemporary clinical guidelines for young women presenting to ED with abdominal pain, atypical cardiovascular symptoms, birth trauma and miscarriage.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our plans with your members. I am proud of this work as it has been heavily informed by the workforce who for too long have been ignored by the current government.

I very much look forward to implementing all of this for a better future for all Tasmanians if fortunate enough to be elected.

Yours sincerely,



Anita Dow MP

Deputy Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party
Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing
Shadow Minister for Advanced Manufacturing & Defence
Shadow Minister for Ageing

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