

# David O'BYRNE

*Independent for Franklin*

Emily Shepherd, State Secretary  
ANMF  
Via email: [philip.swift@anmftas.org.au](mailto:philip.swift@anmftas.org.au)

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your invitation to the ANMF Member Forum on March 7 and the attached ANMF election manifesto. Unfortunately due to a long-standing prior commitment on Bruny Island I am unable to attend the Forum. I would very much appreciate it if you could read the attached statement to Forum attendees and perhaps place it on your Website, and extend my apologies to the Forum.

Kind regards,



David O'Byrne

Authorised by David O'Byrne, 1/17 Bligh St, Rosny Park TAS.

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## STATEMENT ON ANMF ELECTION MANIFESTO BY DAVID O'BYRNE

I am running as an independent candidate and, if re-elected hope to use my influence and experience to ensure that next State Government is guided by good policy and takes decisive action to improve Tasmania's underfunded and overloaded health system.

While I am now an independent my values have not changed and I remain passionate about the role of trade unions in defending and extending employment conditions, upholding professional standards and advocating for the sectors in which their members work. In this context the ANMF has a proud track record as an authoritative body for nurses and midwives and a well-deserved reputation for carefully considered policy and professional advice across the full spectrum of health care services.

This is reflected in the ANMF Election Manifesto which has an integrated view of workforce, training, administrative, infrastructure and clinical issues, accompanied by recommendations relevant to hospital and community settings, to primary, secondary and emergency care and to mental health. I support all of the measures proposed by the Manifesto and am particularly supportive of several workforce-related recommendations.

First, creating administrative support roles in each hospital ward and unit. The ever-increasing administrative and reporting load on nurses is reducing the time available to provide patient care and support, and has implications for the quality of care. It is a false economy and a poor division of labour to have much of this work performed by nursing professionals when hospitals are struggling to meet patient demand, and when nurses are suffering burn-out and workload stress.

Second, increasing the number of nurse practitioners. This can build on, and add to, a model that has improved the efficiency, flexibility and responsiveness of primary health care particularly in community settings.

Third, providing HECS/Diploma support for new graduates moving into permanent positions and relocation packages for those committing to permanent positions for a minimum of three years. This is an essential measure to deal with the recruitment and retention crisis, but should be seen as part of a bigger overhaul of Tasmanian nursing and midwife employment arrangements with a view to matching rates and conditions in other States.

It is disgraceful that successive Governments have been so unresponsive to the employment and workforce needs of nurses and midwives that ANMF members have been left with no choice but to take industrial action. I also note that unions and professional bodies are not always fully or adequately consulted about health policy and delivery and think there is merit in considering the establishment of a tripartite Health Advisory Council.

If I am re-elected I will work closely with the ANMF to pursue the Manifesto priorities in the next State Parliament.