

DEAN WINTER

TASMANIAN LABOR LEADER

Tasmanian
Labor

Phoebe Mansell
Acting Secretary
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Tasmanian Branch)
Via email: phoebe.mansell@anmftas.org.au

Dear Phoebe

Thank you for your ongoing engagement and advice in relation to the urgent need to improve conditions in Tasmania's health system.

After 11 years of the Liberals, it's time for a Fresh Start.

Commitments already announced

Labor has already announced some significant new health initiatives, including:

- **TassieDoc:** a network of free regular doctor clinics around Tasmania, supported with administrative and nursing staff employed directly by the state government
- **Nurse-led care in the regions:** the employment of nurse practitioners in 18 regional hospitals and health centres to expand local treatment options for urgent care
- **Midwifery training and retention incentives:** 200 midwifery scholarships to complement the reestablishment of midwifery training at UTAS
- **A record investment in women's health:** funding to significantly expand Family Planning Tasmania's outreach services across Tasmania
- **Prenatal checks in the regions:** \$2 million to expand the delivery of prenatal checks in regional health centres

These policies are fully funded and will start being rolled out immediately under a Dean Winter Labor Government.

Commitments to the ANMF for immediate implementation

In addition, we are committed to the immediate implementation of the following initiatives put forward by the ANMF:

- The full delivery of the nurse practitioner-led model of care on the west coast
- The abolition of vacancy control in our health system
- The implementation of "Count the Babies" for midwifery staffing ratios

A fresh start for Tasmania.

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- The expansion of hospital in the home and virtual care, in regional health centres and in TassieDoc clinics
- The delivery of additional mental health inpatient beds as promised in 2018
- Increasing access for endorsed privately practicing midwives to the hospital and a publicly-funded homebirth program
- Training priorities including paediatric life support training for ED staff in regional hospitals and specialised dementia training for community nursing teams
- The development of a model for legislated minimum nurse-patient ratios

Objectives over the next term of government

Over the next term of government, we are also determined to rein in spending on agency nurses and locums, which last year cost \$182 million. This is a costly and inefficient way to allocate scarce public resources.

We want to work with the ANMF and other health unions to implement measures, including attraction and retention allowances, to replace agency nurses and locums with permanent staff.

We acknowledge this will take time to implement, but with concerted effort we believe it would be possible to reduce these costs to 2020-21 levels within the next four years. This would save approximately \$125 million per year.

We commit that all savings from agency nurses and locums will be reinvested in new, permanent health jobs.

Prioritising permanent positions over short-term fixes would enable the employment of as many as 800 new nursing and other roles across our health system. And as we transition from the current overreliance on agency nurses and locums to permanent health roles, we commit to work with the ANMF to prioritise the allocation of new positions to:

- Additional nursing staff to support transfer of care, ED demand and ED patient flow
- The employment of psychiatric emergency nurses in all major EDs
- Increased Aged Care Assessment Team assessors in major and district hospitals to speed up discharge planning

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- Further expansion of nurse practitioner-led care in regional hospitals (54 positions)
- Nurses in schools
- Additional clinical nurse consultants on mental health inpatient units
- Aboriginal Health Liaison Nurses and Midwives
- Nurse practitioners in renal sub-acute clinics
- 24/7 access to pathology, radiology, pharmacy and allied health in major hospitals
- Expansion of the northern dementia service to the south and north west

Wage negotiations

ANMF members can expect to receive a real wages increase over the next 12 months under Labor, given the inflation numbers recorded in the March quarter.

I expect, given our constructive conversations to date, that good faith negotiations over coming months will result in an outcome that can be strongly supported by the ANMF and its members.

Capital purchases and other works

I understand and appreciate the significant concern around the future of the Hobart Private Hospital. Labor's priority will be to work with the Federal Government to ensure there is a long-term private operator in place.

Labor recognises the value a Northern Health Education and Research Centre Campus would provide. We will work with the Federal Government over the next four years to bring the project to life.

We will also continue with the proposed expansion of the ED at the Royal Hobart Hospital, and will of course ensure necessary equipment is provided.

We will also consider your suggestion of increased investment in the Kings Meadows Renal Unit, though this will require scoping and planning work, as well as a detailed cost estimate, before making a financial commitment to the project.

Commitment to ongoing consultation and engagement

Finally, I commit to you and your members that I will implement a clear, formalised structure for engaging regularly with ANMF representatives and directly with the people who work in our health system every day.

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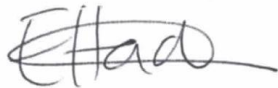
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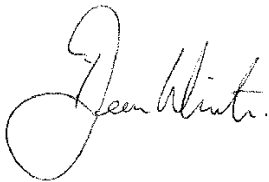
You know better than anyone what works well, what isn't working, where money's being wasted and where investment could be targeted to make improvements.

Thank you again for your engagement and advice over the past 12 months, and I look forward to working with you to deliver the Fresh Start Tasmania's health system so desperately needs after 11 years of the Liberals.

Yours sincerely



Ella Haddad MP
Shadow Minister for Health



Dean Winter MP
TASMANIAN LABOR LEADER

11 July 2025

A fresh start for Tasmania.

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