



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 15 May 2013

ANMF (SA Branch) welcomes funding for mental health and cancer programs

ANMF (SA Branch) has welcomed a \$23.8 million funding boost to Australia's mental health services as part of Budget announcements made on 14 May 2013.

The funding will ensure that the equivalent of 375 mental health nurses will continue to provide clinical services and support for people with mental health issues through the community under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program.

"In this tight fiscal environment, the ANMF (SA Branch) welcomes the Government's ongoing commitment to improving mental health through this funding package," ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said.

"The investment over the next 12 months will maintain the coordinated clinical care and support services for 60,000 people in the community through this successful program."

ANMF (SA Branch) also commenced the Government for extra funding for the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer, including \$55 million to expand breast cancer screening for women over 70 and \$19.5 million for breast care nurses working with the McGrath Foundation.

"Unfortunately breast cancer continues to be the most common type of cancer in Australian women." she explained.

"We are delighted that this additional funding over the next four years for the Breast Care Nurses Initiative will now expand the number of highly-trained nurses working with the McGrath Foundation from 44 to 57."

Adj Assoc Professor Dabars said the ANMF (SA Branch) also acknowledged funding for prostate, lung and bowel cancers and bone marrow transplants.

For all enquiries, please contact Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars.