



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 6 June 2013**

### **Budget Raises Concerns for Health**

Following today's State Budget lock-up, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has expressed concerns with the impact of the budget on the quality and availability of health care services to the South Australian community.

Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, CEO ANMF (SA Branch) said:

"This budget raises concerns for us on the quality and availability of health care for several reasons."

"First, that the significant cuts announced last year in the KPMG and Deloitte's Reviews are being implemented in this budget. This means \$77 million reduction in the health service budget."

"In addition, there appears to be a significant cut to staffing numbers in health. On our reading of the budget, nearly 1,000 positions will be cut. Health bureaucrats advise that some of these are offset by Commonwealth funded positions no longer being recognised. However, on our calculations, this still leaves 400 to 900 positions being cut."

"Third, the budget sets out that hospitals are being asked to do more – to treat more patients and to treat more acutely unwell patients, as a result of increased complexity of care."

"On our reading, health professionals are being asked to do more with less. To deliver more services, with less staff and less funding."

"It is unclear how health services and the health professionals seeking to provide care are expected to achieve this outcome."

"South Australia has a proud history of leading evidenced-based staffing and health care and we are very concerned with plans to deviate from this."

"We have sought an urgent briefing on these issues."

**All media enquiries: Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, ANMF (SA Branch)**