



## Media Release

**Thursday, 24 October 2013**

### **Immediate future of Western DASSA Services secured**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation welcomed today's announcement by SA Health to commit to the immediate future of the Western Services of SA Health Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia (DASSA).

The DASSA Western Service at The Parks Community Centre and the Port Adelaide Community Health Service are instrumental in providing a free, confidential service to an individual or their family and friends who are experiencing alcohol or other drug problems.

In early August 2013, SA Health proposed a number of recommendations to achieve \$5.2 million per annum in recurrent savings from the Drug and Alcohol Services by 2017/18.

"Today's announcement by SA Health is welcomed and provides immediate relief to those communities in the western suburbs of Adelaide who rely on the vital support that the Western Service provides" said Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, CEO/Secretary of the ANMF (SA Branch).

"The initial proposal to close the Western Clinic would have only resulted in clients from the west being forced to travel across Adelaide to seek intervention and support in their rehabilitation, which potentially may have been compromised."

"Whilst there is now a commitment to the end of the 2013/14 financial year, the ANMF (SA Branch) calls upon the Government and the Opposition to indicate its willingness to provide further commitments regarding the future of this vital clinic.

"The ANMF (SA Branch) will continue lobbying to secure the future of DASSA Western Services in the lead up to the March 2014 State Election," said Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars.

The ANMF (SA Branch) is continuing to examine the remaining recommendations contained within the SA Health report to determine impacts on services provided to those most in need.

**Media contact: Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, ANMF (SA Branch)  
CEO/Secretary -**