



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 24 July 2013

Nurses & Midwives in Last Minute Negotiations to avoid joining their NSW Colleagues in Industrial Action

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) will meet with representatives from SA Health and the State Government later today (Wednesday 24 July) in a bid to avoid a dispute over safe staffing levels.

The ANMF (SA Branch) has been engaged in Enterprise Bargaining negotiations for several months, but has faced resistance from SA Health over key issues relating to future staffing models.

Today's meeting is an attempt to avoid an industrial dispute in South Australia, similar to that of New South Wales where thousands of nurses and midwives will strike today over the O'Farrell Government's failure to improve and extend safe nurse-to-patient ratios.

"We have made it clear that we will not accept any new system in South Australia that fails to protect safe staffing levels and skills mix for nurses and midwives and their patients," said Rob Bonner, ANMF (SA Branch) Industrial and Education Services Manager.

"South Australian nurses and midwives will not compromise on patient care and that means maintaining previously agreed staffing levels to ensure the delivery of safe care and safe workloads," he said.

The ANMF (SA Branch) has warned that time is rapidly running out, if its members are to avoid a public campaign ahead of the State Election.

"We welcome the recent decision by the South Australian Minister for Health to intervene and insist his department recommence genuine negotiations which we're hoping will lead to a positive outcome."

Enterprise Bargaining negotiations are expected to top the agenda at the upcoming ANMF (SA Branch) Annual Delegates Meeting, which is scheduled for Friday August 2.

"We'd be hoping to present something meaningful to our members on that day, otherwise it's likely the gloves will come off," Mr Bonner said.

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