



## Media release

*Embargoed until 5am Friday 1 November 2013*

### **Nurses and Midwives vote in favour of giving the best care to South Australians**

Today the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) and the Minister for Health announced the ballot result for the new Enterprise Agreement for South Australia's public sector nurses and midwives.

The result has been extremely positive with an overwhelming majority of 95% voting in favour of the Agreement.

Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, CEO ANMF (SA Branch) said "This ballot result secures a new nursing/midwifery safe staffing model across metropolitan and country public hospitals which will provide the highest levels of staffing in Australia.

"This is a great positive for South Australians, who now are able to enjoy the security of knowing that they will be able to be cared for appropriately and effectively as a result of this Agreement".

"We have also achieved many of our original objectives including: obtaining a wage outcome of 3% per annum for the next three years, the protection of professional development leave and the creation of an inaugural professional development allowance for nurses and midwives, joint career structure review, in addition to maintaining safe staffing levels and skill mix. These are all key elements that will not only benefit nurses and midwives, but most importantly, will benefit the community for whom we care".

"Today's ballot result demonstrates that nurses and midwives across our public health system are committed to securing outcomes that provide the safe quality care for our community".

The Minister for Health, The Hon Jack Snelling said "we continue to be committed to providing strong and viable public health services to the South Australian community".

"South Australia has a proud history of leading the way in health care and health delivery, and we believe this Agreement achieves that".

"At a time of significant budget pressure, this three year Enterprise Agreement provides security to nurses and midwives in our public hospitals as well as the community by supporting the services nurses and midwives provide".

**Media contact: Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, ANMF (SA Branch)**

**Matthew Hillard, Media Adviser to the Hon Jack Snelling MP  
Minister for Health and Ageing**