Nurses jobs may be axed

COST cutting measures to cut 30 hospital beds and 85 full-time staff at Adelaide’s Women’s and Children’s hospital would compromise care, nurses say.

Responding to an external review of performance and efficiency at the hospital, released last week, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA) Professor Elizabeth Dabars said it made “simplistic comparisons between SA Hospitals and those interstate”.

“Any cuts would lead to safe and effective care being compromised,” Prof Dabars said.

The review found inefficiencies cost the state $40 million last year and were caused by longer hospital stays compared with other similar hospitals. It found women spend an average of 3.3 days in hospital after a natural birth at the WCH, compared to 2.7 days interstate.

SA Health’s Chief Executive David Swan said if recommendations were adopted “there would be no forced redundancies, with staff reductions largely met as a result of natural attrition.”