



Media release

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Call for clarity over hospital bed cuts

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has called on the State Government to urgently clarify whether hospital beds are safe from cuts.

The call follows reports this morning that the upcoming State Budget will result in the closure of 'hundreds' of hospital beds.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said if true, the state budget measures could rip a hole in the entire South Australian health system.

"The State Government must urgently confirm whether hospital bed closures are on the agenda when the budget is handed down in just a few weeks," Ms Dabars said.

"South Australia has the slowest population growth of all mainland states and the oldest and poorest population - factors that we know mean that people use our health system more often."

"We need to invest in a health care system that will support our complex population now and in the long-term, so the reports of the closure of hospital beds are alarming and must be urgently confirmed."

"The State and Federal Governments cannot afford to recommence the blame game and cost shifting which has plagued the health system over a long period of time," Ms Dabars said.

"South Australia deserves a health system that meets current and future demands. Those most in need in the community need to know they will have a health care system that will support them now and into the future."