



Media release

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Ballot Delivers Better Deal for Patients Through Improved Staff Conditions

Public sector nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing across the State have overwhelmingly supported a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement paving the way for improved safety and care for patients, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has announced.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said the results of the 2016 EBA ballot, finalised today, reflected a resounding 'yes' to secure new and better staffing levels, job security, conditions and wages.

"Today's ballot result demonstrates nurses and midwives in our public health system are committed to securing outcomes so they can deliver the best possible care – whether that be in aged care, community mental health, a ward in a hospital, emergency department or intensive care unit," Ms Dabars said.

"At a time of significant budget pressure and unprecedented change in our health sector, these new conditions give our nurses and midwives in metropolitan and regional areas more certainty and security so they can get on with the job of caring for South Australians in need."

The three-year agreement includes:

- A 2.5% increase in wages and salary related allowances per annum starting from 1 October 2016
- Safer staffing levels and skills mix
- The protection and extension of a personal development allowance
- Changes to classification structures and job roles
- Introduction of Income and Injury Protection Scheme (similar to that agreed for the SA Police earlier this year) and Workforce Renewal Scheme, and
- Recognition of Employee Entitlements escaping domestic/family violence through enhanced access to additional 15 days special leave with pay.

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“Nurses and midwives play a crucial role in creating a health system for the future and they must share in the benefits their work is creating,” Ms Dabars said.

“Since early this year, the ANMF (SA Branch) has worked tirelessly on behalf of our members to negotiate strongly for a new Enterprise Agreement.

“While we still have work to do, the ballot results show us members are supportive of the way forward – a direction at which patients are front and centre.”

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