



## Media release

Tuesday 29 November 2016

# ANMF (SA Branch) steps up fair wage fight for Southern Cross Care workers

The ANMF (SA Branch) will present a petition to Southern Cross Care (SCC) today demanding the organisation immediately begin genuine enterprise bargaining for its nursing and personal care workers.

The petition, signed by more than 1000 people, urges the SCC Board to restart negotiations with the ANMF (SA Branch) following its failure to honour a commitment to commence bargaining earlier this year.

SCC nursing and personal care workers' Enterprise Agreements expired during 2015, despite the efforts of the ANMF (SA Branch) to negotiate new agreements with the organisation well in advance.

CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says the ANMF (SA Branch) believes SCC has not bargained in good faith.

"Despite our continued efforts to commence bargaining, SCC have refused to meet, failed to genuinely negotiate and have instead paid an administrative wage increase of only 1.25 per cent - which is well below the industry average and leaves some staff paid only a couple of cents above the minimum wage prescribed by their Award," Ms Dabars said.

"We believe the action of SCC Executive is unfair, unjust and undermines the value of nurses and carers who provide essential care to residents. SCC is showing a distinct lack of respect for its most valuable assets - its loyal and committed staff."

As part of the *Treat Us Fair Because We Care* campaign, the ANMF (SA Branch) visited all SCC sites and distributed a petition in both hard copy and online format, attracting over 1000 signatures.

"The amount of support for this petition should send a strong message to SCC that the ANMF (SA Branch), our members and the community will not back down on the fight for fair wages for SCC staff," Ms Dabars said.

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