



Media release

2 February 2018

NURSES AND MIDWIVES BAFFLED BY CALL FOR ROYAL COMMISSION

The body representing South Australia's nurses, midwives and personal care workers is stumped by Nick Xenophon's call for a Royal Commission into the state health system.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says Mr Xenophon's latest announcement appears to be just another SA-BEST attempt to make a media-grabbing headline in order to avoid putting out a serious health policy.

"In the absence of solid, well researched and considered health policy, this latest announcement is just another headline with no substance," Ms Dabars said.

"What's even more alarming, if Mr Xenophon is in any position of any influence after this state election, this approach means we'll have no change to our health system for at least two years whilst this Commission takes even more money away from service provision in order to pay for yet another lawyers picnic.

"We don't need a Royal Commission into our health system. We know what the solutions are—they're outlined in our health policy position statement that Mr Xenophon has had for more than six months.

"He could review all 49 recommendations in the ANMF (SA Branch) health policy position statement we provided him last July—after all, this is a document entirely informed by South Australia's nursing and midwifery workforce.

"Six weeks out from an election should be a time for serious discussion about the future shape and resourcing of our health system, rather than this type of announcement that seeks to deflect the debate away from substance.

"It's time to put serious policies on the table to give everyone a chance to debate and analyse who best deserves their vote on 17 March."

Background

The [ANMF \(SA Branch\) Health Policy Position statement](#) was issued to all major parties last July as a means of guiding health policy platforms for political parties ahead of the state election.

To date, timely policy responses have been received by Labor, Liberal and The Greens, with SA-BEST failing to respond despite repeated follow-ups.

Based on these responses, ANMF (SA Branch) has scored each party on their respective health policy as a guide for the nursing and midwifery workforce—and indeed all South Australians in their care—on how to make their vote count for health on 17 March.

The election health scorecard can be viewed at <https://www.anmfsa.org.au/events-campaigns/state-election-2018/>

Media contact: Adj Assoc Prof Elizabeth Dabars AM, ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary - 0402 795 686