



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 1.30pm

### **Nurses resolve external triaging, but underlying issue remains**

Emergency Department (ED) nurses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital have today reached a compromise with facility management on external triaging but will continue to work in 'purple for patient safety' until lack of ED capacity is addressed.

For more than two weeks, ED nurses have been wearing purple scrubs as a visual demonstration to management that 'enough is enough' when it comes to being forced to treat people in ambulances ramped outside the hospitals.

Behind the scenes, the professional body representing them, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has been in discussions with Central Adelaide Local Health Network executives to push for a resolution.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Prof Elizabeth Dabars AM says concerns around who had governance over patients being treated outside of the ED have now been addressed.

"Nurses will no longer be asked to start treatment in the back of an ambulance; instead, they will triage the patient to determine to their category of priority," Ms Dabars says.

"Patients triaged as needing priority treatment will then need to be transported into the Emergency Department where nursing care can begin in a constantly monitored environment," she says.

While this is a satisfactory solution for now, the underlying problem of the lack of capacity of emergency departments to manage patient demand remains.

"We are now in discussions with SA Health to work towards a metro-wide solution to our over-burdened emergency departments."

"Until there's a solution in place to ease the burden, these nurses will continue to work in purple scrubs to highlight their very real concerns around patient safety."

#### **Media interviews:**

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM on 0402 795 686