



MEDIA RELEASE

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Nurses take action to protect mental health patients at RAH

Mental Health Nurses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital have placed bans on admission of patients to Ward C3 at the RAH due to concerns about patient and staff safety.

Adj Assoc. Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM said 'After months of seeking action by management nurses have decided that the risks for patients could no longer be left unresolved.'

'The hospital closed a purpose built extended care unit in the emergency department several months ago and moved patients - many of whom are still being assessed and diagnosed, into vacant beds in Ward C3.'

'The ward is not physically suited for their care, does not provide for adequate line of sight and supervision and poses heightened risks for self harm.'

'At times beds in the RAH Acute Medical Unit have also been used - which are even less suitable than those in C3 and have been staffed largely by agency staff placing high strains on permanent mental health nurses providing supervision and support to them.'

'All of this when a purpose built 5 bed Psychiatric Extended Care Unit (PECU) remains vacant!'

The ANMF is demanding resolution of its members concerns through the reopening of the PECU and its use for admission of mental health patients from the emergency department.