



## Media release

*Wednesday, 6 August 2014*

# Public reject Federal budget cuts to health

Over three quarters of South Australians support additional government spending to protect the public health care system in the wake of savage Federal budget cuts to health.

Research commissioned by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has revealed that 77 per cent of those surveyed favoured additional spending to maintain the current level and standard of services, with less than one in 10 people indicating they would prefer to see cuts to health.

The research also revealed that less than 15 per cent of South Australians supported the introduction of a co-payment for GP visits.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM said the polling completely supported the ANMF's opposition to harsh and ill-conceived cuts to health.

"There is overwhelming support for maintaining our current health service and for the nurses and midwives that support that system," Ms Dabars said.

"Not only this, but the research exemplifies the complete disconnect between the implementation of Federal cuts to health and the community sentiment on the issue."

The findings will be presented today at the ANMF (SA Branch) annual conference, which will be attended by close to 500 nurses and midwives and will be formally opened by the Premier, the Hon Jay Weatherill.

The annual conference follows yesterday's workshop on the future of the South Australian health sector, organised by the ANMF (SA Branch) at the request of the Minister for Health, the Hon Jack Snelling.

The workshop was an opportunity for nurses and midwives to contribute ideas as to where savings in the state's health system could be made.

"The workshop highlighted that we must empower staff to make decisions, avoid duplication and wastage across multiple sites and the critical need to base our health care spend on evidence of the efficiency of services," Ms Dabars said.