



## Media release

**Thursday, 4 September 2014**

### **RDNS Agreement signed in a win for nursing activism**

A new Enterprise Agreement between the Royal District Nursing Service of SA (RDNS) and its staff has been signed today, following extensive lobbying by the Australian Nursing Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) and RDNS nurses.

Today's signing follows 12 months of negotiations, which reached breaking point in May when RDNS chose to send home nearly 60 employees for participating in protected industrial action after negotiations with the employer stalled.

Those sent home by RDNS then converged on the Fair Work Commission in Adelaide, in a move that helped kick-start negotiations again.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM said today's signing of the agreement was an important win for nursing activism.

"We firmly believe that the courage shown by those RDNS nurses ultimately forced RDNS back to the negotiating table, with significant improvements achieved as a result of the action taken," Ms Dabars said.

"I applaud the courage of RDNS nurses, who have shown considerable courage in fighting for an Enterprise Agreement that values their role in providing the community with the best quality care."

As part of the new Agreement pay rises will no longer be linked to KPIs and key nursing leadership roles will be maintained, which were key sticking points throughout the bargaining process.