



Media release

Sunday, 7 September 2014

Lyell McEwin nurses commence action over ED Resuscitation Team

- **Nurses to rally on Thursday, September 11**

Nurses at the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) Emergency Department (ED) will commence industrial action tomorrow over SA Health's failure to establish an appropriately-staffed dedicated Resuscitation Team at the site.

The nurses unanimously voted to undertake action last week after months of protracted negotiations over the establishment of the dedicated Resuscitation Team and SA Health's continuing refusal to fund additional staff for the service.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM said the ED nurses felt they had no choice but to stand up and take action.

"At a time where each and every public metropolitan ED is grappling with ongoing and unprecedented pressures, creating a Resuscitation Team within the already overstretched ED resources is like robbing Peter to pay Paul," Ms Dabars said.

"It will simply mean that nurses will be required to staff the Team at the expense of their current roles, which could blow out waiting times for patients and further add to nursing workloads."

The creation of the Resuscitation Team follows months of lobbying and legal action by the ANMF (SA Branch), despite its establishment being prescribed in the Nursing/Midwifery Public Sector Enterprise Agreement, which was approved in November 2013.

Ms Dabars said other major metropolitan hospitals, including Flinders Medical Centre and the Royal Adelaide Hospital, have dedicated Resuscitation Teams in their EDs which are staffed separately.

"Why should Northern suburbs patients be treated like second-class citizens?" Ms Dabars said.

As part of the action, nurses within the ED will refuse to participate in the ED accreditation process, wear ANMF (SA Branch) branded scrubs and will be distributing information to the public detailing their reason for action and assuring them that patient care will not be affected.

The action will peak on Thursday, September 11, when ED nurses will participate in a lunch time rally at the site. The nurses will consider ongoing and further escalation of industrial action on a rolling basis should acceptable progress not be made on the matter in dispute.