



Media release
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Nurses and Midwives welcome debate on health system transformation

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has welcomed the release of the Transforming Health Discussion Paper as the starting point for discussion and debate over the future of our health system.

Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars said “The future of our health system is critical to all South Australians and it is in all of our interests to make sure that it is world class and properly resourced.”

“Although this review process was sparked by the Federal Government's budget cuts, it is important that the debate focuses on what services should be available to meet the community's needs and that these services are of a type and quality that research and evidence shows are appropriate.”

Ms Dabars warned that “There are some difficult debates and decisions ahead. The paper recommends consolidation of some services in the interests of higher safety and quality along with achieving greater efficiency.”

“Both the staff and the patients of those services will need to think carefully about the competing principles of safety and effectiveness on the one hand with accessibility and equity potentially on the other.”

“Ultimately we need to arrive at a point at the end of this debate where we agree on the distribution of services in the future having taken into account all of these factors.”

The ANMF (SA Branch) supports measures that will lead to greater consistency of performance of our health care system.

“We welcome recognition in the discussion paper that systems for the leadership and management of care in our hospitals have to be in place around the clock and over all days of the week.”

“Nurses and Midwives have been seeking changes that will ensure the availability of more senior staff around the clock, speeding up decision making over patient care and providing support to other staff at the point of care.”

“The ANMF (SA Branch) has been calling for 'positive reform' of our health system for a number of years - that is, reform that seeks to improve patient care, improves the workplace for staff and is more efficient and effective for the funders. This paper offers that opportunity.”

The ANMF (SA Branch) has been working with members to develop strategies and recommendations that may complement the Government's paper. The ANMF (SA Branch) paper will be released on the morning of Monday 20 October.