



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# MORE NURSES EXPECTED TO ACT AS ANOTHER EMERGENCY DEPT AT NEAR-DOUBLE CAPACITY

Lyell McEwin Hospital nurses are likely to join other major city hospitals today and agree to escalate action over overcrowding, as reports surface around the 52-bed emergency department trying to cope with 95 patients with just three triage staff.

The reports follow similar scenes reported at Flinders Medical Centre where the 53-bed department was seeing 107 patients.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says it is disturbing that such scenarios are becoming an all-too-familiar occurrence at our major hospitals.

“It is a sad indictment on our public health system when you are no longer surprised to hear about an Adelaide emergency department having reached double its capacity,” Ms Dabars says.

“And what is incredibly dangerous—beyond what is occurring within these emergency departments—is the lack of action happening outside of them,” she says.

For the past week, the ANMF (SA Branch) has been publicly calling on the Minister to act on the solutions presented to him at a crisis meeting last Friday.

“There is a real concern that, every day the government fails to introduce a circuit-breaker to this issue is another day where people hear the same shocking reports and just start to switch off from what’s happening in our emergency departments.”

“But, for our members having to deal with these scenes during every working shift and the patients who can’t get the emergency care they need, there’s an expiry date—and it is looming.”

The ANMF (SA Branch) has launched a radio advertising campaign to ensure the issue remains in the public spotlight and puts more pressure on the state government to prioritise a solution.

She says the overcrowding at the Lyell McEwin Hospital is somewhat exacerbated by the prohibition of ambulance ramping at that facility.

“Our members are reporting receiving patients from up to 14 ambulances an hour, and there’s just nowhere for these patients to go in an emergency department that’s already packed to the seams.”

The ANMF (SA Branch) will meet with Lyell McEwin Hospital staff this afternoon and will next week meet with its members hospital-wide to determine the form of escalated action to start to reduce the pressure.

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