



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# RAH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSES TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT AS GOVERNMENT FAILS TO HELP

Emergency Department nurses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital have today met to determine next steps in the absence of Government-led measures to help alleviate the pressure at major metropolitan hospitals.

The ED nurses will be calling upon their colleagues across all wards at a whole-of-hospital meeting next week, seeking any suggestions on ways to reduce the burden at a localised level as the Government continues dragging its feet in implementing a system-wide 'circuit-breaker'.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says the ED nurses have also collectively endorsed to launch a public campaign to garner community support for a cause she says isn't going to change without Government intervention.

"This action is being driven by extremely tired and stressed nursing staff who simply cannot bear the thought of one more shift during which their patients' lives are put at significant risk."

"After more than 18 months of lobbying a Labor and now Liberal Government, our RAH members have realised they can't rely on the government to help them provide safe and effective care for their patients."

Ms Dabars says the Government does have solutions that can help fix the problem, but have so far failed to act on them.

"The Minister has solutions that can make a real and almost-immediate difference to the number of beds available at major city hospitals—so why won't he act on them?"

While Ms Dabars appreciates the Government has committed to reviewing its options and releasing some strategies over the next few weeks, she fears that might be a case of too little, too late.

"Our emergency departments are actually in a state of emergency—and just like the patients who require emergency care; we need an urgent response."

A public campaign will launch this week and the ANMF (SA Branch) will be meeting with ED members at other major metropolitan hospital sites this week to discuss similar next steps.

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