



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW COMMITMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT PROVIDE CIRCUIT-BREAKER IN NURSE ACTION OVER HOSPITAL OVERCROWDING

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has welcomed additional written commitments received overnight from the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to help address overcrowding at our hospitals.

“We thank the Minister for this response and for the new measures he has now committed to,” says ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM.

“Our only focus is and continues to be patient care and we do believe some of these will start to make a difference to the safety of patients in our hospitals.”

Given these new measures and indeed a commitment to introducing more in the near future, we are prepared to discontinue our plans for the escalation of industrial action, including any cancellation of low risk surgery.

The new commitments received in writing from the Minister overnight include:

- Important detail on the 30 new peri-urban beds;
- Commitments to provide appropriate resourcing in connection with the 30 peri-urban beds;
- Commitment that the 11 mental health beds are coming on line immediately;
- An unequivocal commitment not to remove the winter strategy beds until they are no longer required.

In addition, the Minister clarifies and confirms:

1. The use of 20 private beds;
2. Working with ANMF and providing detail on medium to long term strategies and timeframes;
3. Providing detail and timeframes on mental health workforce strategies;
4. To reactivate the Repatriation General Hospital.

“The Government has delivered what we’ve asked for in this written commitment, albeit there is still more to be done and we will be working closely with the government to ensure patient safety remains a priority going forward.”

Ms Dabars will be taking the new commitments to a special meeting of worksite representative members for consultation.

“We will be taking these new commitments back to our members to ensure they are confident these measures are sufficient to protect the safety of patients in our hospitals.”

“We will continue to hold the government to account on issues that are affecting the safety of our patients.”

“If patient safety is at risk again, we’ll take the action we need to take to drive better outcomes for the community—which we have succeeded in doing as part of this campaign.”

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