



## MEDIA RELEASE

11 December 2018 – 12.15pm

# NURSES WELCOME INCREASED MEASURES TO HELP EASE HOSPITAL OVERCROWDING

**Interview opportunity:** CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM at 1.15pm today  
ANMF (SA Branch) Office, 191 Torrens Road, Ridleyton

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has welcomed today's announcements from the State Government aimed at alleviating the unrelenting overcrowding in major metropolitan hospitals.

"We are pleased the Minister's commitment to open 20 beds at the Repatriation General Hospital is coming to fruition today," says ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM.

"We believe these additional beds will have a positive impact on patient flow, particularly in the south."

She says the ANMF (SA Branch) has also been working with metropolitan local health networks to introduce other strategies to address the continuing unacceptable levels of overcrowding and ramping at emergency departments.

"One of the simplest strategies to help ease the pressure is keeping all available and suitable beds open across the system until they are no longer needed."

"Our members have been concerned by the mixed messages that were being received regarding keeping beds open in recent weeks following closure of 'winter' beds in some hospitals and notification of potential Christmas bed closures in others."

The ANMF (SA Branch) yesterday received a very welcome commitment from the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN).

"SALHN has confirmed to us that it will not be closing any beds over the Christmas period unless it can be demonstrated they are not needed to meet patient care requirements. This is really positive news for patients in Adelaide's southern suburbs."

"We are also pleased that SALHN is still committed to using Flinders Private Hospital beds when needed to help meet patient needs. The network is also working on other measures that aim to improve Emergency Department and hospital-wide activity and flow."

The ANMF (SA Branch) met yesterday with Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) and sought similar commitments to maintain the availability of beds and is awaiting a response.

At 9.30 this morning, the Royal Adelaide Hospital had 42 patients waiting for a bed of which 11 had been waiting between 12 and 24 hours.

There were similar scenes at the Flinders Medical Centre, which had 30 patients waiting for a bed with 11 of those waiting between 12 and 24 hours.

ANMF (SA Branch) will continue to work closely with the State Government in relation to these strategies and in resolving emergency department and hospital overcrowding.

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