

Campaign update #25 public sector mental health enterprise agreement

4 JULY 2016

Negotiations resume this week

1. Status of negotiations

Since our last update (#24) two meetings were held between ANMF, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association and the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU). With our facilitator, former Fair Work Commission deputy president Greg Smith, unable to assist at either of these meetings, progress on achieving agreement on ANMF claims with all parties has been slow.

Three meetings are scheduled this week and we expect Mr Smith will be available to assist in progressing our claims.

The employers' position is that if the unions do not agree on claims then the status quo remains. This is working against ANMF members' key claims, including skill mix in community health centres to improve and maintain the number of mental health nurses and our claim for mental health nursing ratios in inpatient units.

ANMF's key concerns continue to be:

- achieving agreement for the general public sector nurses' and midwives' outcomes to be applied to mental health nursing wherever relevant, including – importantly – the general sector wages outcome, paid from 1 April 2016
- mental health nursing ratios in inpatient units
- sufficient mental health nurses employed in community mental health services to satisfactorily meet the community's health needs
- community mental health nurses' workload management.

Members taking protected industrial action in the 12 area mental health services continue to play a vital role in these negotiations. Your commitment and show of strength is making a difference at the negotiating table and cannot be ignored by your management, employers and the decision makers. Keep going because wearing your red campaign T-shirts and implementing bans are impacting your employers.

Don't forget to send photos to media@anmfvic.asn.au or post them to our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) page so members across the state know we are all in this together. If you are employed at one of the services unable to take protected industrial action please wear your campaign T-shirt outside of work. We can all raise awareness of these issues in our own communities at places such as our kids' sporting events, the supermarket and travelling on public transport. You'll find it starts an important conversation.

It's time Victorian public sector mental health nurses are valued, recognised and rewarded for the vital work they do in our hospitals and community.

