VICTORIAN FINAL YEAR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

ANMF
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation
VICTORIAN BRANCH

Let's build collective pressure and momentum on the Victorian Government to fund additional graduate positions and ensure that graduating nurses and midwives aren't lost from Victoria's health and aged care services.

The best way to do that is to share your story with the media and politicians. Speak from the heart to help the community understand how important this issue is and why they should care.

Prepare some short talking points:

- Short background information about yourself and why you studied nursing/midwifery – perhaps you're an already experienced EN, or you're an international student who had extra financial pressures sacrificing to study in Australia, or you chose to study nursing/midwifery because of the government's announcement in 2022 offering financial assistance for students starting in 2023 or 2024 and you wanted to help after the pandemic.
- How you're worried about how you'll get your first job in nursing or midwifery
- How did you feel when you learned you were unsuccessful?
- How it doesn't make sense when you hear more nurses and midwives are needed but you missed out on a grad position.
- Mention how concerned you are that so many of your peers have missed out on a grad program position – this isn't just one or two people; it is over a thousand new nurses or midwives potentially lost to our health system and the Victorian community.
- What challenges do you face in being unemployed in 2027?

Use your talking points to then share your story publicly with the media and when contacting politicians.

Contact the media

Politicians subscribe to media monitoring services and any time an article or letter to the editor mentions them or a subject under their portfolio, they usually will see it.

Letter to the editor

Getting a letter to the editor published is a great way to let the public know what you're fighting for. Decision-makers read newspapers and take notice when people take the time to write letters about the issues that concern them. Published letters can be shared on social media.

As newspapers receive many letters every day, here are some tips to maximise your chances of getting published:

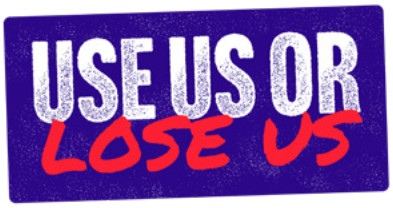
- Keep it short and simple: anything over 200 words is unlikely to be published.
- Make it personal: tell your story.
- Keep it factual: don't exaggerate or overstate.
- Get in early. The later in the day your letter arrives, the harder it is to get it in the following day's paper.
- Papers will only publish your name and suburb, but your letter must include your full name, full home address and a phone number for authentication purposes. You may request anonymous publication but papers will typically only publish anonymously under very specific circumstances.

The Age

letters@theage.com.au (letters should include your address, for verification, and name and be a maximum of 200 words. Find successful letter-writing tips via **theage.com.au/letters-tips**).

Herald Sun

heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor.



KEEP VICTORIAN GRADUATE NURSES AND MIDWIVES IN THE WORKFORCE

Authorised Maddy Harradence, Secretary, ANMF (Vic Branch),
535 Elizabeth St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Talkback radio

You'll need to listen to talkback radio so you know when they open the talkback lines. Often you need to call about topics that are being discussed. Other times you can call about any topic.

Your talkback calls will help the presenter understand the issues and can lead to a request for an interview. ANMF can share audio of your talkback calls on social media to spread the word.

Call metro talkback radio

ABC Melbourne Radio – 774
talkback 1300 222 774
or text 0437 774 774 (rates apply)

3AW – 693
talkback 133 693

Call regional talkback radio

You may also have a local commercial radio station that takes talkback calls

ABC Ballarat call 1300 303 468

ABC Central Victoria call 1300 813 911

ABC Gippsland call 1300 295 222

ABC Goulburn Murray 1300 147 222

ABC Shepparton 1300 977 222

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill call 1300 043 222

ABC South West Victoria call 1300 001 602

ABC Wimmera call 1300 594 222

During talkback on regional ABC stations, you can also text on 0467 842 722 (rates apply).

Contact the Triple J Hack program

This radio program focuses on stories that matter to young people.

Fill in their story idea form via **abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/contact-us.**

Social media

The tips above are about getting the attention of the people in power and the decision-makers so that they increase the number of 2027 grad positions. Posting on social media will also increase community awareness about your campaign.

Remember:

1. Don't film yourself or take photos while on clinical placement or at work.

2. You'll need to ensure your account is public. ANMF recommends you change it to private after the campaign

3. Tag @anmfvic, the Premier, Health Minister and Treasurer (see details above). You may also wish to tag radio presenters and journalists who cover education or health, or radio programs such as Triple J Hack @triplejhack.

Contact the Premier, the Health Minister and the Treasurer

Members of Parliament are your elected representatives. They want to hear from you about broad issues that they can escalate for action. This is the perfect example.

- Write a letter/email (don't use a template letter)
- Get a group of classmates together and seek a meeting
- Call their office and ask to speak with them

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USE US OR LOSE US

KEEP VICTORIAN GRADUATE NURSES AND MIDWIVES IN THE WORKFORCE

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