

# A MESSAGE FROM ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITALS NURSES AND MIDWIVES

20 December 2024

Dear patient/relative/friend

## **NURSES AND MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES.**

We are there when you are born, when you are having a baby, when you are sick, when you are injured and when you are dying.

St Vincent's Private Hospitals nurses and midwives have worked through the pandemic under enormous pressures.

Our union, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, is trying to negotiate a new enterprise agreement with management for St Vincent's Private Victorian Hospitals (Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Kew and Werribee).

We are asking for safe staffing and safe patient workload standards.

Perversely having expensive health insurance as a patient in a Victorian private hospital currently means you have fewer nurses and midwives to care for you than if you were a patient in a public hospital. For example, midwives on night shift have to look after up to nine mums and their babies when the same mums and babies in the public sector would have one midwife for six patients.

Without safer staffing levels, nurses and midwives will simply make the decision to leave or suffer from burnout.

We are taking protected industrial action as a last resort because our employer is not listening to us. We assure you that patient health, safety or welfare will not be at risk. There may be some inconvenience and for that we apologise. We thank you for your support and understanding as we engage in protected industrial action for improved staffing levels and workloads so we can safely care for you.

The most recent negotiations took place on 29 November and then 19 December. St Vincent's Private management has agreed to a meeting in mid-January (date to be set). We're calling on St Vincent's Private Hospitals management to prioritise its nursing and midwifery workforce and our patients by providing safe staffing levels.

**Thank you for your support, so we can continue to care for you. We have really appreciated all of your messages and encouragement.**

St Vincent's Private nurses and midwives

**PLEASE  
TURN THE PAGE  
FOR WAYS YOU CAN  
SUPPORT NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES SO  
WE CAN CONTINUE  
TO CARE FOR THE  
COMMUNITY.**

# PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT SPEAK OUT

Please show your support for St Vincent's Private Hospitals nurses and midwives by sharing ANMF's campaign posts on social media, calling talkback radio, and writing letters to the newspapers.

Talk about what the St Vincent's Private Hospitals services mean to you and your expectation that healthcare employers address the workforce issues with initiatives that will guarantee minimum staffing levels, improve patient care and retain experienced and early career nurses and midwives, and recruit additional nurses and midwives.

## SUPPORT NURSES AND MIDWIVES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Share ANMF (Vic Branch) campaign posts

Facebook, Instagram and X accounts  
via [@anmfvic](#)

### ANMF (VIC BRANCH) SOCIAL MEDIA

    [@anmfvic](#)

### ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL TAGS

#### Facebook

[@stvincentsPrivate](#)  
[@stvincentsprivatekew](#)  
[@stvincentsprivatewerribee](#)  
[@stvincentsprivateeastmelbourne](#)

#### Instagram

[@stvincentsPrivate](#)  
[@stvincentsprivatekew](#)  
[@stvincentsprivatewerribee](#)  
[@stvincentsprivatebaby](#)

### USE EBA CAMPAIGN HASHTAGS

[#ratiosretainrecruit](#) [#fairpay](#)  
[#nurserecruitment](#) [#nurseretention](#)  
[#midwiferecruitment](#) [#midwiferetention](#)  
[#proudtobeunion](#) [#inourebaera](#) [#nmeba2024](#)

## CONTACT THE MEDIA

### CONTACT TALKBACK RADIO

ABC Melbourne talkback **1300 222 774**

or text **0437 774 774** (rates apply)

3AW talkback **133 693**

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**The Age.** Email [letters@theage.com.au](mailto:letters@theage.com.au)  
(letters should include your address, for verification, and name and be a maximum of 200 words. Find tips on writing a successful letter via [theage.com.au/letters-tips](https://theage.com.au/letters-tips)).

**The Herald Sun.** Submit your letter online via [heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor](https://heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor).

## SIGN THE PETITION



Private Health Insurance companies and shareholders: Patients in Australian private hospitals need more than a drip feed of your \$2.31 billion annual surplus

Share for patient care.  
Sign the petition.

