

24 MARCH 2016

Public sector mental health enterprise agreement: campaign update #7

The ANMF (Vic Branch) yesterday continued negotiations on behalf of Victorian public sector mental health nurse members at the seventh enterprise bargaining meeting, held with the employer representatives — the Victorian Health Industry Association (VHIA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) — and the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU).

- 1. Negotiations** Yesterday VHIA and HACSU proposed separate meetings to negotiate outcomes pertaining to HACSU claims. The ANMF did not support a process that excludes us because HACSU claims may have consequences or an adverse outcome for mental health nurses across Victoria. The parties did not oppose ANMF being present at all negotiation meetings and receiving all documentation related to all claims.
- 2. Forensicare protected industrial action ballot** The ANMF is in the process of making an application to Fair Work Commission, now that we have received confirmation the notice of employee representative rights (NERR) has been issued. An update on this process will be provided at the 31 March members meeting.
- 3. ANMF log of claims** We are awaiting responses from the VHIA to all our claims tabled. We expect to get a formal response prior to the statewide public sector mental health meeting on 31 March.
- 4. Vote 'yes' ballot for right to industrial action** Members are reminded that the Fair Work Commission has approved a ballot to give members the right to take protected industrial action if it is needed to reach a satisfactory agreement. The Australian Electoral Commission will conduct the ballot of ANMF (Vic Branch) members between 29 March and 15 April 2016. If the majority of members in every workplace return their completed ballot paper, and vote 'yes' to the question in the ballot paper, we will be legally allowed to take industrial action in the future to achieve your claims. Members are urged to vote 'yes' and immediately return the ballot when it arrives in the post. The ANMF will also be contacting all members on 4 April at 4pm via SMS and email to ascertain who has returned their completed ballot paper and to remind members to cast a vote. We ask you to respond to the SMS or email to avoid a follow up phone call and ensure this important ballot vote is successful.
- 5. Statewide ANMF members meeting** Public sector mental health members are urged to attend the statewide meeting on Thursday 31 March 2016 for a report back on the progress of negotiations and 'Where to from here?' This meeting will be at ANMF House, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, in the Carson Conference Centre at 2.30pm. Lock it into your diary or the new ANMF (Vic Branch) Diary App now — anmfvic.asn.au/app. Register for transport and childcare for the meeting at <http://bit.ly/1QF9M5T>

Join the campaign, attend meetings and achieve the improvements we deserve. Enterprise bargaining time is the most critical opportunity to improve our wages and conditions. Our strength is our membership. Most Victorian nurses and midwives are already ANMF members – if you haven't joined yet or you know someone who hasn't, please encourage them to join. Non-members can join online here: members.anmfvic.asn.au/CalculateRate.

If you don't have a Job Rep on your ward, unit or community team, it's time to put up your hand and help your union and your colleagues achieve your claims for 2016. Speak to another ANMF Job Rep or call ANMF Reception on 9275 9333 and a Job Rep Pack will be sent out to you. ANMF will keep you updated via further campaign updates, our website, emails and text messages where appropriate. Please ensure your details are correct by logging into the member portal: members.anmfvic.asn.au.