

ANMF EBA 2016

Nurses, Midwives and Mental Health Nurses

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Media Release

THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2016

Nation's lowest paid nurses and midwives delay industrial action

Public sector nurses and midwives from across Victoria today voted to delay industrial action to pave the way for intensive pay negotiations.

Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy has guaranteed senior Victorian Government officials will be available for talks with the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch).

Talks will start tomorrow at 10am at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The government and employers must make a serious offer, fixing the four to 20 per cent pay disparity with NSW nurses and midwives, for consideration at an ANMF members meeting on 5 May.

The current government and employer offer is three per cent. On average a Victorian nurse or midwife is paid \$200 less per week than their NSW counterpart.

In the event that a "reasonable and respectful" offer is not made within 15 days, today's mass members meeting at Moonee Valley authorised the union to take the steps necessary to trigger industrial action starting across the state on 6 May 2016 at 7am.

The last time Victorian nurses and midwives took industrial action over pay was in 1995.

ANMF (Vic Branch) Secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick said: "The government and the employers have 15 days to let nurses and midwives know they're prepared to pay wages that value, recognise and reward their important work.

"We've made unprecedented progress in talks and we're prepared to work night and day to resolve the outstanding key issues – the wage offer and the unacceptable demands for unlimited short shifts and the reduction of handover time which adversely impact patient safety.

"Since 1999 EBAs have been dedicated to help fund and improve ratios. Nurses and midwives, with the support of the community, took these battles on with courage and determination and won. Victoria is the now second place in the world to have legislated ratios.

"Our patient safety campaigns over the past 17 years have come at a personal financial cost to nurses and midwives and, each year that employers and governments ignore the wage parity issue, the \$200 average weekly gap will widen."

ENDS

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