



**Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation**

VICTORIAN BRANCH

# Newsflash

22 June 2021

## **Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System ANMF Update**

The ANMF Royal Commission Working Group (RCWG) held its inaugural meeting on 12 May 2021 to discuss the proposals and recommendations outlined in the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. This group will continue to meet monthly and provide valuable member feedback to specific implementation phases related to the interim and final report recommendations.

The RCWG is chaired by Assistant Secretary Maddy Harradence and Mental Health Nursing Officer Jade Chandler and includes 10 ANMF mental health delegates from various areas of mental health across regional and metropolitan Victoria. The group will next meet on 23 June and will discuss reducing restrictive interventions and compulsory treatment.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Act**

As per recommendation 42 of the final report, the Department of Health commenced consultation on 15 June for a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act (the 'Act'). This new Act must be in place by mid-2022, and consultation timeframes are tight. The department has released an *Update and Engagement paper* ([www.engage.vic.gov.au/mhwa](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/mhwa)) and is asking for written submissions by 4 July 2021. ANMF note this short timeframe for response and accordingly have included this paper in the agenda for our next ANMF RCWG. Members who would like to provide their feedback on the paper can do so via their ANMF RCWG delegate or email ANMF directly via [records@anmvic.asn.au](mailto:records@anmvic.asn.au) (Attention Jade Chandler).

### **Workforce strategy**

Recommendation 57 of the final report outlined the need for structural reform and support for the mental health and wellbeing workforce. To this end, the Royal Commission recommended the development and implementation of a *Workforce Strategy and Implementation Plan* by the end of 2021. This will include consultation, data collection and workforce planning. ANMF has been invited to engage with the consulting group which is undertaking this important work. We will keep members updated of progress.

Authorised by Lisa Fitzpatrick ANMF (Vic Branch) Secretary

## Forensicare blitz

ANMF has been engaging with members across Forensicare sites in preparation for the many improvements outlined by the Royal Commission final report and included in the recent state budget. These include a refurbishment and expansion of beds at Thomas Embling as per recommendation 38 of the final report. ANMF is committed to ensuring that this increase in capacity and other positive changes are supported by improved staffing, safety and professional development for nurses across Forensicare. We note that Forensicare EBA negotiations continue. ANMF is currently awaiting a response from Forensicare to our improved staffing claims across Forensicare sites.

ANMF Job Reps are critically important in our mental health workplaces. Where we have more Job Reps, we see better engagement and better outcomes for all members. If you wish to nominate a colleague to be a Job Rep, or to nominate yourself, please download the form via [www.anmfvic.asn.au/reps/become-a-job-rep](http://www.anmfvic.asn.au/reps/become-a-job-rep).

ANMF has also been promoting a forensic mental health nursing scholarship. ANMF and HESTA are providing a \$3500 scholarship to help a member working in forensic mental health who is enrolled in a Post Graduate Diploma or a Graduate Certificate/ Diploma in Forensic Mental Health Nursing. The scholarship will assist with course expenses. For eligibility and applications visit [www.anmfvic.asn.au/fmh](http://www.anmfvic.asn.au/fmh)

Any members with queries or feedback are encouraged to contact ANMF Mental Health Nursing Officer Jade Chandler via [records@anmfvic.asn.au](mailto:records@anmfvic.asn.au).

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