



# Nurses • Midwives • Mental Health Nurses

# Respect our work.

## Admission of emergency patients (including Reserved Emergency Beds)

### EMERGENCY CARE MUST ALWAYS BE PROVIDED

1. It is not the intention to deny emergency care to any patient who needs it during this dispute. Therefore, in accordance with the ANF members' protected industrial action ballot and notices, up to three beds on each ward will be reserved for emergency admissions only. These beds will be known as *Reserved Emergency Beds*.
2. Emergency admissions are defined as those patients who are assessed as having a condition that would significantly deteriorate within 24 hours if they were not admitted.
3. In the event that all hospital beds are full (excluding the beds closed as part of the protest action), an emergency admission may be admitted to a *Reserved Emergency Bed* provided:
  - a) the ANF or an ANF key member is consulted prior to the emergency admission, wherever possible
  - b) following an emergency admission into a *Reserved Emergency Bed*, another bed on the ward is closed as soon as possible and deemed a Reserved Emergency Bed (i.e. as soon as a patient is discharged).
4. The criteria for Emergency Admissions are:
  - a) Nurses or midwives in the Emergency Department, in consultation with the ED registrar/resident or director, must agree that the patient is a true emergency.
  - b) The receiving ward staff must agree that there is sufficient nursing staff to adequately care for the emergency patient.
  - c) There must be equitable distribution of emergency cases throughout the hospital regardless of Clinical Unit status.
5. In the event that three *Reserved Emergency Beds* per ward/unit is insufficient, it may be necessary to increase the number of *Reserved Emergency Beds* in some wards to accommodate patients deemed to be an emergency.

**NB: If you experience any problems, please contact the ANF immediately on 9275 9333 or contact your unit/ward key member – previously known as a Job Rep.**