



Nurses • Midwives • Mental Health Nurses

Respect our work.

Closing beds - how many and which ones?

The ANF (Vic Branch) protected industrial action ballot of members authorised the ANF to close 1 in 3 beds in an effort to ensure nurses and midwives can maintain the quality of care and patients can access beds.

1. Close 1 in 3 *Operational Beds* on every ward/unit in public hospitals (including where possible ED cubicles).

An *Operational Bed* is one that is usually open and used for patient admissions on the ward/unit on which you work.

2. Beds usually closed or not regularly utilised shall remain closed.

3. **Do not close** beds being used for:

- a. Oncology
- b. Paediatric patients
- c. CCU, ICU, HDU
- d. Haemodialysis patients
- e. Labour/maternity wards/units with respect to maternity cases.

CANCEL 1 in 3 booked operations or the equivalent in operating theatre including endoscopy and day surgery. Do not cancel any Category 1 surgery, emergency or priority diagnostic procedures where its primary purpose is to diagnose cancer, cardiac conditions, neurological conditions, or other conditions i.e. termination of pregnancy, in which the timing of the procedure is critical to the patient's treatment regime.

When considering which procedures to postpone, be mindful of the clinically optimum time for surgery – for example a Category 1 procedure should occur within 30 days, a Category 2 procedure within 90 days and 365 days for a Category 3. Unlike normal operating days during our action this should be discussed with bed management committee.

Any patient whose condition would deteriorate significantly if surgery was postponed should be treated as urgent and admitted into an emergency bed in accordance with usual health service practice.

4. **DO NOT** discharge/transfer residential aged care patients assessed as needing high care to a facility in which there is not 24 hour 7 day registered nurse cover.
5. **CANCEL** 1 in 3 non-urgent home visits or clinic appointments in community mental health and outpatients departments.

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.