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Public Sector EBA Update No 6 - 13 November 2011

Victorian Public Sector Nurses and Midwives

Protected industrial action update

ANF members employed in the Victorian public sector* commenced implementing protected industrial action from 7.00 am on Saturday 12 November 2011.

Just over 400 beds have been closed across the state since the industrial action commenced which includes beds that have been reserved for emergency patients. In addition, nurses and midwives have continued with the range of administrative bans implemented on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November 2011.

The Victorian public health system is awash with a sea of red T-shirts proudly worn by ANF members to demonstrate how important the maintenance and improvement of nurse/midwife patient ratios is in any settlement of the current dispute.

Messages of support are pouring in from the Victorian community who understand that nurses and midwives are not involved in this action for personal benefit, rather that it is for the benefit of the entire Victorian community who at some stage will all require the skill and expertise of a public sector nurse or midwife.

Conciliation talks will continue in Fair Work Australia between ANF, the Baillieu Government and the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association on Monday 14 November 2011.

ANF reiterates that the bans are subject to the condition that no ban threatens to endanger anyone's personal safety, or their life, health or welfare. ANF invited any employer who believed that the bans might genuinely impact on the safety, health or welfare of any person to notify the ANF so that their concerns could be resolved. Only two employers have contacted ANF and their concerns were resolved to the satisfaction of the employer.

ANF advises any member who has any doubt whatsoever as to the impact of the industrial action on anyone's personal safety, life, health or welfare to err on the side of caution in implementing the industrial action and to immediately seek advice from ANF.

All bans will remain in place until an agreement is reached that is accepted by a further statewide meeting of ANF members.

*excluding Ballarat Health Service and Ballarat CHC which will commence at 7am Tuesday 15 November and Ballarat District Nursing Service which will commence at 7am Thursday 17 November.