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Victorian Public Sector Nurses, Midwives and Mental Health Nurses

Members discuss mass resignations

Today's statewide members meeting discussed a number of options to ensure that the Government recognises the seriousness of the current impasse over our wish to improve and extend nurse to patient ratios, and the Government's plan to allow health services to staff below ratios, utilise unlimited short shifts and introduce nursing assistants within current ratios.

Members who attended the meeting recognised that they would not be prepared to work in a system like that in the 1990s that allowed the Government's so-called flexibility and will be carefully considering their option to resign permanent employment from the public sector.

ANF Officials will be holding members meetings over January and February at health services to discuss this further with members, where requested, to discuss and answer queries regarding public sector wide nursing and midwifery resignations in the event that the Government retains its position of requiring the trading of minimum nursing and midwifery staffing levels for a wage increase.

Petitions

Immediately following the meeting, members marched to the Department of Health where State Minister for Health, David Davis, accepted the petitions signed by more than 40,000 Victorians over the last few weeks.

Good Faith Bargaining

The Fair Work Australia hearing of the ANF application for orders requiring VHIA to bargain with the ANF in good faith, continue this week.

Reporting of Bed Closures and Operating Theatre utilisation

Members also resolved to notify the ANF of management initiated bed closures and non-utilisation of operating suite sessions to ensure that the public is aware of the current fragile state of the health system.

