

# Delegates demand Govt revise its offer by 30 May

Your Branch delegates have responded with a resounding 'no' to the Government's "offer" for the 2013 Award.

Over 200 members of the Committee of Delegates met yesterday and after considering the General Secretary's comprehensive report confirmed that the lack of any offer on ratios is totally unacceptable.

After waiting two months and extensively advocating for patient safety, at stalls, rallies and community action in suburbs and towns around NSW - the Government has responded with disrespect to nurses, midwives and communities.

Your delegates have called on the General Secretary to now "conduct a broad ranging campaign of media awareness, political lobbying, co-ordination of campaign activities by NSWNMA Branches and any other action necessary including paid media advertising utilising *NursePower* campaign funds to achieve an acceptable offer for Branches to consider".

They also demanded that the Government provide an acceptable pay and nurse to patient ratios offer to the Association by no later than Thursday 30 May.

## Local MPs must take responsibility

Only a changed position by Government will change this "non offer" on improving and extending ratios. The Government includes more than 80 MPs from the

Liberal and National parties and those local MPs need to understand that it is their responsibility to advocate for safer patient care for their constituents.

It is not good enough for these MPs to be telling nurses and midwives that "your Award is not my decision, talk to your Association" or that "negotiations are underway".

There is no negotiation underway. The Government's law changes in 2011 removed your right to genuine negotiation through your union, and removed the 'independent umpire' role of the Industrial Commission.

Instead, the Government has delivered you a "take or leave it" pay offer – hoping that our profession will go quiet on the need to improve patient safety.

## Things you can do now

Local events to step up the pressure on MPs will be happening next week. Contact your NSWNMA Branch Officials to find out what's happening near your facility.

Every Coalition MP must be held to account for their Government's brazen rejection of your claim for ratios. Each MP should be reporting to their local nurses and midwives by 30 May about what they are personally doing to change their Government's position on your claim.

# Your claim – and the Government's response

On 15 May the Ministry of Health presented the following offer to Association negotiators on behalf of the Government:

## NSWNMA Claim

## O'Farrell Govt response

Improve ratios in all NSW hospitals to the same level as Group A city hospitals

**NO**

Introduce ratios in paediatric and neonatal intensive care units

**NO**

Introduce ratios in EDs, EMUs and MAUs

**NO**

Introduce ratios in intensive and critical care units

**NO**

Introduce a ratios-equivalent system in community and community mental health

**NO**

Extend ratios to more mental health units, and improve ratios in specialised mental health hospitals

**NO**

Employ an additional 275 Clinical Nurse/Midwifery Educators

**NO**

Employ Assistants in Nursing only where clinically appropriate

**NO**

Replace 'midnight census' for nursing hours calculations with a system that accurately reflects patient numbers

**NO**

Patient 'specialling' to be provided in addition to mandated nursing hours/ratios

**NO**

2.5% pay increase for nurses and midwives in July 2013 and July 2014

2.5% pay increase but including 0.25% in superannation.\*

*\* Since the offer was made to NSWNMA, the Govt has made new statements to public sector unions that this offer may change again, but has not provided details. They have stated that the "cash" increase of 2.25% may vary across agencies depending on the number of employees in SSS and SASS Super schemes.*