

IS TAMWORTH HOSPITAL SAFELY STAFFED?

PETITION INFORMATION

Tamworth Hospital Branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) is currently campaigning for improved staffing at Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital.

The key purpose of this campaign is to ensure patient safety is delivered throughout the hospital.

As a major rural referral public health facility for Tamworth, the New England and North West regions, it is critical Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital is staffed adequately to meet patient demand and according to the *Public Health System Nurses' & Midwives' (State) Award 2015*.

Tamworth Hospital Branch of the NSWNMA has repeatedly raised concerns with Hunter New England Local Health District (HNE LHD) management in an attempt to resolve nursing and midwifery staff shortages, particularly in the maternity unit and emergency department.

The midwifery staffing data demonstrates major concerns with the way HNE LHD management is calculating midwifery staff throughout several areas of the maternity unit.

The maternity unit is often very short staffed on the night shift.

Evidence collated prior to the transfer into the new building indicates there are also longstanding nursing staff shortages on night shift in the emergency department. Emergency nurses are regularly required to work hours of overtime and are missing meal breaks.

Many nurses and midwives are struggling to keep their patients safe as a result of HNE LHD management failure to fully address these nursing and midwifery staffing shortages. Whilst some interim arrangements are being explored for the emergency department, local nurses and midwives seek longer term solutions to ensure the delivery of safe patient care and a safe work environment for all clinical staff.

As a matter of urgency, Tamworth Hospital Branch of the NSWNMA is seeking interventions by the NSW Ministry of Health and the NSW Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner.

As advocates for better health outcomes, local nurses and midwives strongly believe their patients deserve the same level of nursing care that patients in metropolitan hospitals receive.

SUBMITTING THE PETITION

Please remember that in order for the signatures collected to be admissible to the NSW Legislative Assembly, certain rules must be followed:

- Each page of signatures must be headed with the words of the request.
- Every signature must be original handwriting and signatures must not be pasted on, photocopied or transferred in any other way.
- The petition must be signed by the people whose names are listed, using their own

signature or mark if they are unable to write. Every person signing a petition must include their name, address and signature.

Once the petition has been filled out, please return the original petitions to the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association:

Attention to:

**Fiona Deegan, Regional Organiser,
50 O'Dea Ave, Waterloo, NSW 2017**

Email: fdeegan@nswnma.asn.au or

Fax: 02 9662 1414

Authorised by B.Holmes, General Secretary, NSWNMA



