



NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Alert: Nurses rally against Medicare cuts

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) will participate in a community led rally to save Medicare at Sydney Town Hall TOMORROW, Saturday (20 February).

The NSWNMA has been campaigning against the Liberal Government's plan to cut \$650 million from funding for pathology tests and diagnostic imaging services, which will result in the removal of 23 MBS items, including MRIs, x-rays, blood and urine tests, ultrasounds and pap-smears.

Judith Kiejda, Acting General Secretary of the NSWNMA will address the crowd on issues resulting from changes to Medicare.

"The changes will affect all Australians and it's a huge concern for the NSWNMA. The rally is the latest battle to save our universal healthcare system and stop the government from cutting funding, outsourcing Medicare and Americanising our universal healthcare system," Ms Kiejda said.

"By reducing equitable access to vital preventative pathology tests and radiological screenings, we're only creating more serious long-term health problems and putting more strain on our already overstretched public hospitals and health workers.

"The cuts will affect some of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised in our community, putting a cost barrier in the way of those who need access to these services the most."

Leader of the Australian Labor Party, Bill Shorten will also share his views on the issue at this rally.

A march from Town Hall to Belmore Park down George St will take place at the conclusion of the speakers. All members of the community are urged to attend.

WHEN: 1pm – 4pm, SATURDAY 20 February 2016

WHAT: Community forum, photo opportunity and interviews

WHERE: Sydney Town Hall
George St, Sydney

In addition to the rally, a national door knock will take place on Saturday, 27 February and a forum will also be held on Monday, 14 March at Trades Hall on Goulburn St, Sydney. For more information visit: www.nswnma.asn.au.

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