



NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Nurses still vulnerable in the workplace

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) has called for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding a violent incident at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital overnight.

General Secretary of the NSWNMA, Brett Holmes, said it was disturbing to learn three nurses and a patient had been injured during the incident, which involved another patient.

"This is a terrible situation where three nursing staff have been injured during the course of their work, let alone the other elderly patient who has also suffered injuries," Mr Holmes said.

"No nurse begins their shift anticipating to suffer injuries on job.

"We understand the nurses that were injured have been treated and fortunately they've been able to go home. We offer our ongoing support to these nurses.

"It's unfortunate that violent incidents of this nature continue to occur in our hospital settings.

"We are calling for a thorough investigation into the Work Health and Safety practices at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to assess what else can be done to minimise risk, for both patients and staff.

"The NSWNMA will be seeking to participate in any investigation conducted by SafeWork NSW, in addition to the NSW Police investigation already underway."

Mr Holmes said extra security in hospitals was important, but stressed it was not the only solution.

"We need the state government to support nurses in the workplace, as well as the community members they're trying to care for."

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