

Campaigning during the four weeks of intensive negotiations



NSW
NURSES &
MIDWIVES'
ASSOCIATION



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FEDERATION
NSW BRANCH

On 30 September, public sector branch members endorsed the union entering four weeks of intensive negotiations with the state government and the Ministry of Health. This recommendation has been accepted in line with the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) recommendations and we look forward to robust discussions over the next month.

Remember, the reason the government has come back to the table is because of your recent industrial action. Your efforts to date have helped reopen negotiations, and we will be campaigning hard with you.

What actions can you continue during this period?

Managing your workloads

Both parties have agreed to Recommendation 1.b) from the IRC regarding what should apply throughout the four-week period.

During the 4 weeks of intensive negotiations, where there are currently work bans that have arisen in relation to the wage claim:

During AM and PM shifts, Nurses and Midwives won't routinely be required to undertake the following duties, where such actions do not compromise timely patient care:

- Pharmacy collection
- Unstocking in Unit Storeroom
- Pushing beds for intraward transfers
- Changing linen bags.

This does not apply to facilities where the staffing levels are not of sufficient size so as to not have dedicated other classifications to do this work.

Nothing prevents the ordinary application of the workload / dispute resolution procedures in the Award (provided such action should not be taken in support of wage claim).

Where there is disagreement at the local level as to the application of this, the parties will hold discussions in an attempt resolve the issue with a view to achieving timely patient care.

Community involvement

You can continue amplifying our public awareness campaign. This includes wearing badges, bandanas, and union scrubs.

Branches can also arrange community action such as own-time rallies, street stalls and letter boxing to help spread our message.

Political pressure

Any political lobbying during this time is crucial. If you have not done so already, seek a follow-up meeting with your local Member of Parliament. Be sure to stress the importance of a fair pay rise that suitably compensates the essential work of nurses and midwives.

Why it's important to keep the campaign going during negotiations?

While the government has returned to the negotiating table, it is vital to sustain the pressure that has brought us to this point.

Successful negotiations depend on the unwavering support of nurses, midwives, and a community united in demanding change. If meaningful progress is not made during these intensive negotiations, we will resume our campaign –making it crucial to keep the community informed and engaged in our cause.