



February 18, 2026

Lyell McEwin Hospital 24-hour stoppage rescheduled following SAET recommendation

A 24-hour stoppage by nurses and midwives at Lyell McEwin Hospital has been rescheduled to 7am Thursday 26 February until 7am Friday 27 February, following conciliation in the South Australian Employment Tribunal under s19 of the Fair Work Act 1994.

SAET issued a formal recommendation that the planned action scheduled for 19 February be postponed to enable urgent discussions between the parties regarding patient and community safety arrangements.

The Tribunal acknowledged that industrial action is legitimate in pursuit of industrial objectives and recommended that negotiations focus on agreed mitigation measures, ward-level safe practice arrangements, staffing and skill mix requirements, notification processes and ensuring urgent procedures occur.

ANMF SA CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM said nurses and midwives had taken industrial action reluctantly and only as a last resort after months of responsible escalation.

“For months we have escalated responsibly, through petitions, rallies and negotiations, seeking a fair and respectful agreement,” Ms Dabars said.

“The last two offers presented by government did not represent meaningful change. Rearranging the same proposal does not address the workforce challenges facing South Australia.”

“Nurses and midwives do not take this action lightly. Industrial action can still be avoided.”

Ms Dabars said the Federation remained ready to enter urgent negotiations immediately.

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Media Release



Australian Nursing
& Midwifery Federation
(SA Branch)

“This matter can be resolved if government presents an offer that genuinely values nurses and midwives and recognises the need to attract and retain staff in a competitive national market.”

“If South Australia fails to invest appropriately in its nursing and midwifery workforce, it is ultimately the community that suffers.”

ENDS

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