

ED/JW/NW/LS/MAF

31 March 2026

Dr Robyn Lawrence  
Chief Executive  
Department for Health and Wellbeing  
SA Health  
Government of South Australia

Sent via email: [HealthCE@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthCE@sa.gov.au)

Dear Dr Lawrence

**Re: Fuel Crisis Affecting Nurses and Midwives**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) ((ANMF (SA Branch))) has been contacted by a significant number of members in relation to the impact of the current fuel crisis. While concerns have been raised by members working in metropolitan areas, most correspondence has been received from nurses and midwives employed in regional, rural and remote locations.

Members working in community nursing and midwifery group practice, across both metropolitan and country areas, are particularly affected. Many of these members are required to travel extensively and frequently use their own private vehicles in the course of their duties.

We have advised members that they are under no obligation to utilise their private vehicles for work-related purposes. This position is clearly articulated in the SA Health Human Resources Manual (page 363), which states that *"No employee is required, under any circumstances whatsoever, to use their private vehicle for official purposes if they do not wish to do so."* Despite this, we have been advised that there is a significant lack of fleet vehicle availability, leaving many members with no practical alternative but to use their own vehicles to deliver essential care.

The current reimbursement rate of 89 cents per kilometre is grossly inadequate given the substantial escalation in fuel costs. As a result, many nurses and midwives are now left significantly out of pocket for work-related travel.

Nurses and midwives providing community-based care in metropolitan and regional areas deliver essential services that are fundamental to maintaining safe, effective and accessible healthcare, including the active prevention of avoidable hospital admissions.

**ANMF (SA Branch)**

ABN 95 969 485 175

**ANMF** South Australian Branch

ABN 71 465 180 449

191 Torrens Road,  
Ridleyton, SA 5008

PO Box 861,  
Regency Park, SA 5942

**P** 08 8334 1900

**F** 08 8334 1901

**E** [enquiry@anmfsa.org.au](mailto:enquiry@anmfsa.org.au)

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Authorised by: Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM, CEO/Secretary, ANMF (SA Branch)

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Further to this, many nurses and midwives working in regional, rural and remote areas are required to travel considerable distances to attend their workplaces due to service need and allocated placements. By way of example, we have been advised of a nurse who resides in Port Pirie but is required to work in Orroroo. With increasing fuel costs, the financial burden associated with this travel is becoming prohibitive.

This situation poses a serious risk to workforce sustainability and will inevitably impact staffing levels across a number of country hospitals.

The ANMF (SA Branch) seeks an urgent review of the current fuel subsidy rate of 89 cents per kilometre, as well as an immediate review of fleet vehicle availability for all community nurses and midwives.

To address this issue, the ANMF (SA Branch) seeks the introduction of a temporary fuel allowance for nurses and midwives who are required to travel long distances to attend work which should remain in place until fuel supply and pricing stabilise and the current crisis conditions have been resolved. Our members provide essential services, and appropriate financial support is necessary to ensure that regional hospitals and community services remain safely staffed.

The ANMF (SA Branch) requests a formal response by close of business **Friday 10 April 2026** and requests this matter to be treated as a priority.

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact ANMF (SA Branch) Lauren Wood-Smith, Nurse Lead – Professional Practice, on 0402 795 681 or via email at [lauren.wood-smith@anmfsa.org.au](mailto:lauren.wood-smith@anmfsa.org.au).

Please address all return correspondence to Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM via email at [elizabeth.dabars@anmfsa.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.dabars@anmfsa.org.au).

Yours sincerely



Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM  
**CEO / Secretary**