



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

YOUR VOICE.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF AMA, TASMANIA BRANCH VMO EBA

UNCLEAR MESSAGING FROM GOVERNMENT

Preliminary meeting with government

Government received our claims two months ago. Last Friday, we met with the Department of Health's VMP/RMP negotiating team leaders with intent to settle some high-level concepts and agree to a bargaining structure. The latter came reasonably easily with agreement that both parties will not aim for unnecessary delay through 'low ball' offers, not identifying priority objectives, and stalling through small increment issue progression.

However, we received an ambiguous "yes, no, maybe" response to our uncontroversial requirement that RMPs be combined with VMPs as one employment agreement. There was also no commitment to apply our expected principle of pay and condition parity with SMPs and, very concerningly, there was government talk of shifting all the service risk to RMPs by engaging them via contractor (ABN, business relationship) rather than via status quo employment. Government is suggesting this bargaining process may not cover RMPs at all.

Our formal VMP/RMP claim presentation occurs 21 August and there will be fortnightly negotiations after we hear government's endorsed comprehensive claim response (government response follows our presentation as soon as government decision forums can convene).

SUCCESSFUL MEMBER ROAD SHOW

Statewide member road show report

The AMA Tasmania Branch CEO, Lara Giddings, and the AMA's Senior Industrial Adviser, Andrew Lewis, travelled the length of the State last week to meet with members and hear about their public health

experiences. The information gathered usefully informs our new VMP/RMP agreement bargaining negotiations.

A big thanks to all those who gave their time to meet and advocated for their patients and colleagues. Our resolve has been further strengthened because members made clear our claims (lodged 3 May 2024) are 'spot on' in respect of identifying terms and conditions of employment that need dramatic uplift and that doctors 'propping up' the public health system through their vocational voluntarism is truly reaching its limits.

We heard that the public system's absence of professional respect and the undesirable impacts on VMP/RMP practice when serving in-patients needs immediate attention through agreed outcomes. Our claims are designed to remediate these concerns and target the principle of VMP/RMP equality with their SMP public hospital peers.

The next edition of this VMO EBA update will report on our claim presentation and our next steps.



Lara Giddings
CEO



Andrew Lewis
Senior Industrial Adviser