

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

NEWSLETTER #1109 (22 Dec 2009)

Yesterday, the South Australian Industrial Relations Commission heard our application for a separate Enterprise Agreement for health professionals.

After four hours of intense discussions, the Commission determined that our application was beyond its authority and that it was therefore unable to consider it.

Then, the matter of our industrial action was raised during proceedings. The government told Commissioner McMahon that our work bans would mean the cancellation of approximately 150 procedures and sought that our members be prevented from taking action."

We explained to the Commission that it would be very difficult to get the members to meet and agree before the scheduled action at 8:30am, and that the government had called off procedures in any case. However we have agreed to meet at 12.30pm today at the RAH to consider the Commissions request.

We argued in the Commission that:

- The bans are a sign of the stresses the public health system can expect to experience if the issues raised by health professionals continue to go unaddressed.
- The industrial action is borne of frustration with the government's ongoing refusal to negotiated the members' concerns.
- The demand on health professionals are continually increasing while there isn't enough staff to cope with the demands; and
- The work conditions are so bad that it's difficult to attract staff and retain them.

The Health Professionals Consultative Committee met today at 12:30pm to report and assess Commissioner's McMahon recommendations. Accordingly, the meeting passed the following resolution:

"Members of the Consultative Committee will on return to work advise health professionals to lift the current work bans by the commencement of the next shift".

The meeting also instructed the HSU to follow legal advice and take all legal steps necessary to challenge the registration of the agreement in the pursue a fair deal for health professionals.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Consultative Committee, Activists and members for their support.

**This is not the end of the road.
The fight continues.**

**...backbone of our
health system**



Authorised by Jorge Navas, Secretary HSU

