

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LARGEST PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear patient/client/resident/relative/friend

## OUR JOBS ARE ABOUT SAVING LIVES AND EASING SUFFERING

We are there when you are young, when you are sick, when you are in an accident, when you are old and when you are dying.

We have been there for you always, mostly recently during the first four years of COVID and we are now under serious pressure due to workforce issues.

We are the largest workforce in the public health system. We are the glue that holds the whole system together – covering all the allied health and health sciences, technical and administrative staff in our hospitals and health services.

We are your Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Medical Imaging Technologists, Anaesthetic Technicians, Security Officers and Clerical staff – to name a few of our thousands of jobs. We work alongside our Nurse and Doctor colleagues.

The reality is that the public health workforce is in serious strife, struggling to retain and attract experienced professionals.

We want the best in public health care, but without better conditions and pay to make up for some of the huge losses to real wages experienced over recent years, public health will remain an uncompetitive and unattractive career option.

Important reforms and improvements to make the WA health system more sustainable are being met by the usual mantra: *'nice idea, but we just can't afford it.'*

This tired narrative should be called out for what it is: the foundations of inefficient wage levels are contributing to a dysfunctional labour market marred by high turnover, chronic excess demand and qualified people choosing to not practice or work in public health.

This is the very narrative that got us into the current situation. Moving forward we must recognise we have alternatives. The choice lies in choosing to either fix deep problems in public health workforce pay and conditions or allow the problems to worsen.

An investment now will deliver dividends for WA health's future and sustainability.

An investment now provides the recognition and respect that the public health workforce deserves.

There will be some inconvenience and for this we are sorry. We take industrial action only as a last resort. Patient health, safety or welfare will not be at risk.

As a member of the WA community, please support us by calling on the Cook Government to urgently step in and act. If the State Government continues to sit on its hands, it is choosing for workforce issues to worsen.

We must have a State Government that chooses to fix the problems. We must ensure we can do our jobs well and safely.

**Thank you for your support, so we can continue to care for you.**

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE  
FOR WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT  
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS SO  
WE CAN CONTINUE TO CARE FOR  
THE WA COMMUNITY.

**STAND UP!**  
HIGHER WAGES + BETTER CONDITIONS

 **HEALTH  
SERVICES  
UNION WA**

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please show your support for your WA public health workforce by sharing HSUWA's Stand Up! campaign on social media, calling talkback radio, writing letters to the newspapers and contacting politicians.

Talk about what the WA public health system means to you. Talk about why the State Government must fix the workforce issues and support the retention of experienced staff in public health.

**STAND UP!  
AND SPEAK OUT**

## SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Share our campaign posts
- Follow our Facebook, Instagram and X accounts by scanning the QR Code



## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### WA Newspapers

- 📍 GPO Box N1027, Perth WA, 6843
- 📞 9482 9040
- ✉ letters@wanews.com.au

### The Australian

- 📍 34 Stirling Street, Perth WA 6000
- 📞 9288 3000
- ✉ wa@theaustralian.com.au

### Post Newspapers

search [postnewspapers.com.au/letter-to-editor](https://postnewspapers.com.au/letter-to-editor)

## TALKBACK

### ABC Radio Perth

Talkback | 1300 222 720  
SMS | 0437 922 720

### 6PR

Talkback | 133 882  
SMS | 0487 999 882

### ABC Regional Talkback

Esperance | 1300 633 837  
Goldfields | 1300 525 222  
Great Southern | 1300 560 222  
South West | 1300 545 222  
Mid West + Wheatbelt | 1300 501 222  
Pilbara | 1300 510 222  
Kimberley | 1300 242 675

## CONTACT THE PREMIER, THE HEALTH MINISTER AND THE TREASURER

### ROGER COOK

Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade; Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations

✉ wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Facebook: @RogerCookMLA

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X: @RogerCookMLA

### AMBER-JADE SANDERSON

Minister for Health; Mental Health

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### RITA SAFFIOTI

Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Tourism

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## TAG

- Premier Roger Cook
- Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson
- Treasurer Rita Saffioti

## USE THE HASHTAGS

#StandUpForHigherPay

#StandUpForBetterConditions

Please also tag @HSUWA

**STAND UP!**  
HIGHER WAGES + BETTER CONDITIONS

