



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 21 November 2018

### **Nelson-Marlborough Anaesthetic Technicians to strike**

Anaesthetic Technicians employed by Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) have issued notice for a 24-hour strike, planned to start on the morning of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

The strike notice has been issued due to intense frustration at NMDHB's failure to make any offer in settlement of their collective agreement since bargaining was initiated back in September 2017.

APEX Advocate Luke Coxon says that it is "extremely disappointing" that the Anaesthetic Technicians are yet to receive a written offer from NMDHB, despite the parties having formally been in bargaining for over a year. He went on to say:

"Across the country, our Anaesthetic Technician members have only been receiving offers to consider once we have given notice of strike action. Sadly, Nelson-Marlborough DHB is no exception.

Under these circumstances, our members have been left with no choice but to issue a strike notice so that the DHB will take this seriously and finally get an offer in settlement to us."

#### **ABOUT ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS**

Anaesthetic Technicians are essential members of the surgical team. They work mainly in operating theatres, providing skilled assistance to the Anaesthetist. Anaesthetic Technicians check and maintain the anaesthetic machines and other related equipment, ensure appropriate equipment and drugs are available, assist with inserting airway devices and venous/arterial cannulas, and act as advocates for patients. While Anaesthetic Technicians work predominantly in operating theatres, they are called upon to work in any area where an anaesthetic may be given, including CT, MRI & radiology, ED & intensive care.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

APEX Advocate Luke Coxon is available for comment on 021 904 888