



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 28 February 2019

Hawke's Bay DHB Fails to Deliver Resulting in Another Anaesthetic Technician 48-Hour Strike

Anaesthetic Technicians employed by the Hawke's Bay District Health Board have given notice of a 48-hour strike planned to run from 7am on Thursday 14th March until 7am on Saturday 16th March.

The Anaesthetic Technicians had lifted a previous 48-hour strike that was to take place from Thursday 7th February to Saturday 9th February, after making progress in bargaining and the DHB promising a new offer.

"Our Anaesthetic Technicians will be striking due to Hawke's Bay DHB's failure to deliver on what they promised. We lifted a previous strike to enable the DHB to give us a new offer and have waited and waited. The DHB has now been served with a serious rev up; this strike and the disruption it will cause simply does not need to happen," says Luke Coxon, APEX Advocate.

"There is something seriously wrong with the DHB's processes. After several strikes, we finally reach agreement around the table and it is approved by Kevin Snee, CEO. We are then repeatedly told we will have the new offer within days, but after a month it still has not materialised. This is simply not good enough."

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