



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 18 February 2019

Minister of Health responsible for 5-day strike at Rotorua

Anaesthetic Technicians at Rotorua Hospital have walked off the job this morning to begin an unprecedented 5-day strike from 8am today through to 8am Saturday 23rd February.

“We believe we could have reached a deal and avoided this needless strike,” says Mr Coxon. “The difference between the DHBs pay offer for settlement and our offer is a total additional cost of \$25,000. However, interference from Wellington seems to have prevented settlement.”

The other issue is the need to keep adequate breaks between periods of work for our members. These breaks are essential for the safety of both our members and patients. The DHB agreed to this early in bargaining, but then abruptly reversed their position. We understand that this was also on the instruction of the Minister.

“The DHB is postponing or cancelling hundreds of elective surgeries, at an estimated cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars,” says Mr Coxon. “This includes sending patients to private hospitals. It is mind-boggling that the Minister of Health would be so short sighted as to let this happen. The people of Rotorua deserve better; this strike should not be happening.”

We remain open to discussions with the DHB to resolve this dispute. If there is willingness to so, we should be able to easily reach an agreement, so the patients of Rotorua can have their surgeries.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Luke Coxon is available for comment on 021 904 888.

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, and during cardiac arrests.

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