



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 24 October 2018

Anaesthetic Technician Strike Action Escalates

Anaesthetic Technicians in Northland have notified the DHB of a two-day (48-hour) strike. The strike will begin at 7am on Wednesday 7 November and end at 7am on Friday 9 November.

This strike is in addition to another 24-hour strike set for Wednesday 31st October.

Meanwhile, Hawke's Bay Anaesthetic Technicians had their second 24-hour strike yesterday (24 October), and Invercargill Anaesthetic Technicians will be joining the fray with their own 24-hour strike beginning this morning (Thursday October 25).

APEX Secretary Deborah Powell says, "In each DHB the Anaesthetic Technicians expect to bargain their own local issues in their own separate collective agreements. The strikes are now escalating because the DHBs have been unable or unwilling to sit down and bargain with us."

Dr Powell continues, "At the table the DHBs are turning up with the same pre-determined settlement offers that fail to address local issues or reflect previous discussions. Bargaining inevitably breaks down when the DHBs refuse to budge, citing the need for Ministry authorisation. If the DHBs maintain this approach, the strikes will inevitably continue."

"The DHBs are the employers – they should act as such: they need to turn up, engage, and act in good faith. This is not too much to ask," says Dr Powell. "If the DHBs wish to hand over that responsibility to the Ministry, by all means," says Dr Powell, "but if they do then the Ministry must attend bargaining."

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

Dr Deborah Powell is available for comment on 021 614 040