



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 October 2018

Hawke's Bay Anaesthetic Technicians to Strike

21 Anaesthetic Technicians employed at Hawkes Bay District Health Board commenced a 24 hour strike this morning at 0700 hours.

Mediation between APEX, the union representing Anaesthetic Technicians, and HBDHB failed to reach agreement earlier this week.

"Part of our problem is getting effective bargaining across the table with the DHB," said Dr Powell, National Secretary of APEX. "Had the details of the offer that finally arrived late on Wednesday been discussed with us across the table we could have explained why it would not be acceptable to our members and set our minds to alternatives," said Dr Powell. The formal offer "robbed Peter to pay Paul", giving a lesser deal to the more senior Anaesthetic Technicians to offset a better offer to those more junior. "This was never discussed with us and is unacceptable to our members who see no reason why their more senior colleagues should not be equally recognised," said Dr Powell.

UPDATE ON STRIKE ACTION ELSEWHERE

- In Rotorua, mediation is planned for Monday to try and avert two strikes, set for Wednesday 10 October and Thursday 18 October.
- In MidCentral (Palmerston North) notice of strike action was lifted while an offer is being considered by our members.
- In Northland, APEX will shortly put a new proposal for settlement to the DHB to try and avoid strike action scheduled for October 11 and 17.
- In Southern DHB the Anaesthetic Technicians are considering their next steps, including the potential for strike action.

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