MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Government stuffing their pockets while drastically cutting health services

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses is shocked and disheartened by the news that Queensland state MPs have received a massive pay increase. The increase comes at a time when funding is being slashed throughout the health system, leaving many nurses out of a job.

The pay increases would see the Premier of Queensland, Campbell Newman, enjoy a salary of $398,271 – almost as much as US President Barack Obama (who earns US$400,000).

“We are constantly contacted by members who are being made redundant, particularly in highly specialised and needed areas of mental health such as Consultation and Liaison and Perinatal and Infant mental health”, said CEO of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan.

“These members work hard to promote and support good mental health in their communities, and deserve to be supported by Premier Newman. They don’t deserve to become just another casualty in under funding of health across the state”, continued Ms Ryan.

“Mental health consumers in Queensland deserve better”, Ms Ryan said.

“It is an outrage that vital frontline nursing services are being cut while politicians are lining their pockets. Members of the public deserve better, as do the nurses”, Ms Ryan said.

Following public backlash, the Government is considering changes to such increases; however, state MPs are still set to receive a $57,000 pay increase each – as set by the Remuneration Tribunal. This increase would see Queensland politicians the highest paid state politicians in Australia, earning just below salaries of Federal politicians.

The ACMHN is urging the Queensland Government to stop these obscene pay increases and instead invest in the future of Australia’s health system.

Media contact: Kim Ryan, CEO Australian College of Mental Health Nurses 0417 289 189