

Entry Permit Holder Report

SafeWork SA

Application ID 19726455

Entry Permit Holder	
Full Name:	Elizabeth Anne Dooley
Permit Number:	ET-24-01021
Union Represented:	South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association
Worksite Entered	
Business Name:	Royal Adelaide Hospital Emergency Department
Industry:	
Address:	1 Port Road Adelaide 5000
Date workplace entered:	02/07/2024

I Elizabeth Anne Dooley am of the opinion that the PCBU has contravened the WHS legislation relating to:

	Alleged Contravention	More information	Was the contravention rectified?
PCBU Alleged Contravention 1	Not maintaining safe systems of work	<p>The RAH ED is continuously blocked with admitted patients giving rise to ramping on the ambulance ramp and in the waiting room.</p> <p>Workers reported feeling “dejected”, “deflated”, and “fed up” and that since the Statewide Code Yellow was activated, and the SafeWork Performance Improvement Notice was issued “nothing has changed”, and “things are worse”.</p>	No

		<p>There had been reports that the PCBU had activated a 'surge response' to try and get flow through the Emergency Department. This did not provide any meaningful relief to the workers.</p> <p>This is causing workers chronic distress, anxiety and psychosocial harm. Workers reported that "patient and doctor safety is now at risk"</p> <p>It was reported to the EPH's that only a few days prior a medical officer was assaulted by a patient which resulted in physical and psychological injuries.</p>	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 2	Inadequate facilities or access to facilities	<p>The EPH entered the RAH ED at 10.40am. There were 84 patients in the ED with a capacity of 69.</p> <p>There were a total of 58 admitted patients in the ED, 40 of which were waiting for a bed in the hospital ward. Workers reported the ED was "like a holding bay".</p> <p>This gave rise to access block and ramping of paramedic patients and patients in the ED waiting room.</p> <p>There had been 13 patients in the ED greater than 24 hours; with some mental health patients waiting up to 97 hours and others waiting 96 and 80 hours for a mental health bed. There was one 89-year-old with Covid who waited 29 hours for a bed. Workers reported that patients had "no where to go".</p> <p>There is insufficient beds in the hospital to support the number of patients coming to the RAH ED. The PCBU is aware of this and nothing effective has been done by the PCBU to address the issue giving rise to physical and psychosocial health and safety impacts on workers.</p>	No
PCBU Alleged Contravention 3	Not maintaining a safe work environment	<p>The PCBU has not maintained a safe working environment by not providing appropriately trained security to intervene particularly in assault</p>	No



		<p>situations. Workers reported not seeing security take immediate action while assaults were occurring. This has contributed to the overall psychosocial safety impacts on staff and left them feeling unsafe and unsupported in their workplace. Workers reported “we are not just emotionally unsafe in our workplace, now we are also physically unsafe”</p>	
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