

# Entry Permit Holder Report

SafeWork SA

Application ID 22834202

Entry Permit Holder	
Full Name:	Elizabeth Anne Dooley
Permit Number:	ET-24-01021
Union Represented:	SASMOA
Worksite Entered	
Business Name:	Lyell McEwin Hospital
Industry:	Other Health
Address:	Haydown Road, Elizabeth Vale SA 5112
Date workplace entered:	09/01/2026

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

	Suspected Contravention	More information	Was the contravention rectified?
PCBU Alleged Contravention 1	Not maintaining safe systems of work	Workers reported an increase in general medicine patients in excess of accepted safe levels, without appropriate additional medical staff to support these patients. General medicine comprises 4 long stay teams Blue, Purple, Yellow, Green and 2 non long stay teams AMU and MAPU, across multiple wards, and flex beds across the hospital. Each long stay team has two sub teams, A and B, each staffed by three junior doctors, a Registrar, a RMO and an Intern. Workers consider a maximum of 15	No

		to 18 patients per sub team enables safe patient care and doctor safety. Workers reported some sub teams being responsible for in excess of 20 patients per sub team. On weekends, only one doctor attends per sub team, which may be an Intern. That is, an Intern may see 20 patients in a team A, and a Registrar may see 20 patients in a team B, with the Registrar expected to provide support to that Intern's 20 patients as well as their own 20 patients.	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 2	Not maintaining safe systems of work	Workers reported - this is too much for one person, I feel anxious being alone managing so many patients and complex issues, I dread having to work weekends, I think I'm burning out, I feel numb, I feel really bad for not seeing patients properly. Workers reported they become mixed up when responsible for so many patients, and feel horrible when something is missed as a result. Workers described General Medicine as a shit show, that they feel like dogs' bodies. Workers reported feeling demoralized, frustrated, tired, and burnout. Junior doctors reported feeling guilty for leaving wards to attend medical education sessions, and uncomfortable recording overtime	No
PCBU Alleged Contravention 3	Not maintaining safe systems of work	A new 24 bed general medicine ward 3D opened recently however the medical team for this ward is not due to start until February 2026. This has left existing doctors to pick up this additional patient load. Workers reported lots of sick leave being taken without cover and never being able to finish their shift on time because of the workload. Workers reported being unable to attend personal medical appointments, exercise, or maintain a social life.	No
PCBU Alleged Contravention 4	Not maintaining safe systems of work	Workers reported some patient related tasks were being missed, causing anxiety, stress, and moral injury. Workers feel like there is no limit to the number of patients they will be allocated. A part-time worker reported,	No

		<p>for me it is hard, if full-time it would be soul destroying. Workers reported meal breaks were not taken. Workers reported being yelled at by patients' family members and not having the capacity to deal with it on top of the stress from excessive workloads. Workers reported doctors copying and pasting patient notes as they did not have time to write them.</p>	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 5	Not maintaining safe systems of work	<p>The EPH met with the PCBU twice following entry. The EPH sought greater support for junior doctors, especially Interns, working weekends, a cap on patient numbers for long stay teams, and the temporary closure of ward 3D and an assurance that no flex beds would be used by General Medicine before the new RMO rotation in February 2026. The PCBU confirmed there is no limit to patient numbers that will be allocated to doctors, they would attempt to even out patient numbers across teams, and endeavour to not use flex spaces but could not provide an assurance.</p>	No