

Entry Permit Holder Report

SafeWork SA

Application ID 19577179

Entry Permit Holder	
Full Name:	Bernadette Mulholland
Permit Number:	ET-22-03868
Union Represented:	South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association
Worksite Entered	
Business Name:	Royal Adelaide Hospital Emergency Department
Industry:	Other Health
Address:	1 Port Road Adelaide SA 5000
Date workplace entered:	17/05/2024

I Bernadette Mulholland 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 a safe work environment	The RAH ED has for days been overwhelmed by ramping in both the ambulance ramp and in the waiting room of the ED, access block because of insufficient beds and overcrowding in the ED. This has been ongoing for a few weeks. This relentless pressure without intervention by the PCBU is causing psychosocial harm to those workers in the ED, one workers stated "staff are fucking broken", There is significant sick leave , the EPH was advised that because of the pressure the administration are requiring	No

		patients to be taken off the ramp when there are sicker patients in the ramped waiting room. The workers advise that there is significant risk at night, morale is low and there is fatigue and burnout caused by the ongoing and relentless access block. The PCBU has no procedure for workers health and safety when such pressure is on the RAH ED including in the attached escalation policy.	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 2	Inadequate facilities or access to facilities	<p>There were 53 patients waiting for a bed in the hospital ward which had increased to 55 giving rise to access block and ramping of paramedic patients as well as ramping of patients in the ED waiting room. There had been 17 mental health patients in the ED greater than 12 hours and 10 greater than 24 hours.</p> <p>There is insufficient beds in the hospital to support the number of patients coming to the RAH ED this is known and nothing 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 safe systems of work	The RAH ED has for days been overwhelmed by ramping in both the ambulance ramp and in the waiting room of the ED, this has been ongoing for a few weeks. There is significant sick leave, the workers advise that there is significant risk at night, morale is low and there is fatigue and burnout caused by the ongoing and relentless access block. The PCBU has no written procedure for workers health and safety when such pressure is on the RAH ED including in the attached escalation policy.	No