

Entry Permit Holder Report

SafeWork SA

Application ID 21784105

Entry Permit Holder	
Full Name:	Bernadette Mulholland
Permit Number:	ET-22-03868
Union Represented:	South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association
Worksite Entered	
Business Name:	Lyell McEwin Hospital Emergency Department
Industry:	Other Health
Address:	Haydown Road Elizabeth Vale SA 5112
Date workplace entered:	11/07/2025

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 LMH ED has 59 cubicle/beds I was contacted by doctors working in the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) Emergency Department (ED) and attended the site at approx. 3.00 PM . There were 108 pts seeking medical assistance and 34 patients in the ED beds waiting for a bed elsewhere in the hospital. There were 11 patients in the ED greater than 40 hrs. I was told by the doctors the patients attending are "really sick". I was told the resus bays were full. I was told that some of the patients needed to be in ICU but all the	No

		<p>ICU beds were full. I was told that the "morning crew are shattered". I was told there was no where to see patients and there was enormous distress and worry amongst the doctors because "every cubicle is maxed out"</p> <p>The doctors advised this had been a consistent pattern in the ED and they were worried they would miss something for the patients and constantly walking on egg shells. The consistency of these conditions gave rise to ongoing moral injury, fatigue and distress</p>	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 2	Work Groups	<p>I was told that there was no where to see patients and doctors were concerned that there were 11 kids waiting, and the longest wait time for the kids was 3-hours. The doctors were concerned for the sick children as deterioration can happen quickly and families were notably distressed. This distressed the clinicians.</p> <p>I was told the longest adult patients waiting for a bed was a 72 hours - mental health, two 54 hr medical patients a 42 hour medical patient and a 37 hour surgical patient waiting for a bed. There was a 90 year old elderly patient waiting for a bed.</p> <p>There was concern for the inpatient teams who the doctors said had "been working their guts out" to discharge patients and provide some flow.</p> <p>The constancy of the demand, really acute patients and the doctors simply did not know what to do. One doctor said "it is just not safe when you cannot move patients it is just not safe" . The adult waiting room is full and the paediatric waiting room is full.</p>	No
PCBU Alleged Contravention 3	Not maintaining a safe work environment	<p>I then spoke to the PCBU delegate who advised there was just no beds left.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there were 100 patients waiting this morning. - said it was a really tough environment patients coming are really sick. 	No

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we are pulling all the levers flex capacity is full using all the private beds we can - the teams in the hospital were phenomenal but there is just no beds or room left. - resus is full. - discharge is really good - ICU is full - elective surgery down to the bare bones - lots of influenza - lots of very sick patients - community pressure is high - capacity back of house/hospital is challenged - have ramped patients in the ward corridors waiting for discharge. - activated escalation to the Department - have had ambulance divert/smoothing on - 40/45 patients waiting for admission from the ED - sick leave and flu has also hit staff - unlikely to be any improvement - trying to use Modbury Hospital when can 	
PCBU Alleged Contravention 4	Not maintaining safe systems of work	I have asked for all Code Black and Blue SLS Reports and any SLS reports because of overcrowding and access block for last 6 weeks.	No