

RH/TN/AP

31 March 2026

Mr Frederick Goddard Kebai
President
Papua New Guinea Nurses Association

Sent via email: fredgodkebai@gmail.com
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Dear Mr Goddard Kebai

Solidarity statement for PNGNA nation-wide sitting protest and call for implementation of Nurse Award 2025-2027

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) (ANMF (SA Branch)) sends solidarity to thousands of Papua New Guinea Nurses Association (PNGNA) members taking part in the nation-wide sitting protest on Tuesday 31 March 2026.

Health and care workers have a recognised right under international law to take industrial action when their labour rights are persistently and flagrantly ignored. PNGNA members' fight for fair pay, safe staffing, and dignity at work is part of a global struggle shared by health workers everywhere. Across all regions, health and care systems are under immense strain due to chronic understaffing, sustained underfunding, and governments choosing austerity over investment in people. These decisions cause significant harm to workers, patients, and communities alike.

The ANMF (SA Branch) calls on the Marape Government to immediately implement the Nurse Award 2025–2027. This agreement was signed in May 2025 and should already have been incorporated into the 2026 national budget to enable its full implementation.

We further call on the Marape Government to engage constructively with PNGNA and to urgently provide:

1. A clear and official implementation timeline with specific dates.
2. Confirmation of the budget allocation for the Nurse Award.
3. Transparent communication regarding the phased rollout of all provisions contained within the agreement.

When health workers stand together, they defend the very foundations of our societies – the right to health, safety, and dignity for all.

We offer our full support and solidarity to every PNGNA member taking part in the protest action.

In solidarity



Roslyn Hewlett
Director, Nursing & Midwifery - Member Experience & Engagement

Services supported by the ANMF (SA Branch)

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Authorised by: Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM, CEO/Secretary, ANMF (SA Branch)

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