



30 March 2026

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

Public Services International (PSI) sends solidarity to **thousands of Papua New Guinea Nurses Association (PNGNA) members taking part in the nationwide sitting protest on Tuesday 31 March 2026**. You have a right under international law to take industrial action when your labour rights are flagrantly ignored.

Your fight for fair pay, safe staffing and respect for all health and care workers is part of a global struggle. Across every region, health and care workers are confronting the same challenges — underfunded systems, chronic understaffing, and governments imposing **austerity** instead of investing in people. These cuts harm workers, patients, and communities alike.

We call on the Marape Government to immediately implement the Nurse Award 2025 – 2027. The agreement was signed in May, 2025 and it should have been captured in the 2026 national budget for implementation. The Marape Government must engage constructively with PNGNA and provide:

1. A clear and official implementation timeline with specific dates.
2. Confirmation of budget allocation for the award.
3. Transparent communication on the phased rollout of all provision under the agreement.

The **global threat of austerity** can only be defeated through the power of **organised workers standing together** — united across borders, sectors and unions. PSI's 30 million affiliated members, 14 million of whom are health and care workers, are leading a Fightback Campaign, joining forces to demand investment in strong, equitable public services and to defend the right of every worker to decent conditions, fair wages and safe workplaces. When health workers stand together, we defend the very foundation of our societies — the right to health and dignity for all.

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

In solidarity and struggle,

Oceania Sub-Regional Secretary
Public Services International