



Nurses push for pay rise

NURSES have launched a new pay and conditions claim as a survey shows more than half felt their workplace was understaffed and nearly half had been threatened in the preceding 12 months.

The Australian Nursing Federation's Tasmanian branch launched its public sector enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA) campaign yesterday at the ANF annual conference in Hobart.

Tasmanian secretary Neroli Ellis said recruitment and retention was of paramount concern.



CLAIM: Neroli Ellis

Nurses' wages in the Tasmanian public sector were 4.2 per cent behind their interstate colleagues.

Ms Ellis said that unlike other public sector workers in Tasmania, nurses did not have a wage nexus to maintain parity with nurses in other states.

The survey, taken to ascertain nurses' priorities for the EBA, shows almost 60 per cent of respondents had been working for more than 20 years.

More than half, 54 per cent, felt staffing was inadequate for their workplace and half were not happy with the skill mix in their area and believed more support, especially

administrative, would ease nursing workloads.

Nearly 39 per cent indicated an unacceptable level of workplace bullying and did not appear to be treated seriously by management.

Some 47 per cent said they had been threatened in the preceding year, some saying the person responsible was confused, mentally ill or medicated.

Many reported being verbally abused by a colleague.

Half the nurses said they did not claim all overtime.