NZNO advice for members during RDA planned strike

Members of the New Zealand Resident Doctor’s Association (RDA) have voted to strike in support of their collective employment contract negotiations. The dispute relates to rostering practices, which are causing fatigue and are deemed to be unsafe by the RDA.

The strike will commence at 0800 on Monday 29th April 2019 and will continue until 0800 on Saturday 4 May 2019.

NZNO supports the RDAs decision to strike in an effort to address unsafe rosters and acknowledges that any strike action is disruptive to patients and staff.

We appreciate that, as always, Nurses and Midwives will be working within their professional scope to ensure patients receive the nursing care they require.

Members are likely to be impacted by the strike in different ways depending on which area they work in. You may be requested to work additional hours or shifts or to take annual leave or be redeployed to other areas for example as a result of theatre closures.

**Required to take Annual Leave**

DHBs are obliged to comply with MECA and Holidays Act. Practically this means you can not be forced to either take leave or to vary your published shift time.

**Redeployed to another area**

An alternative to annual leave is to be redeployed to another area within the hospital during the strike period. Provided you are able to work within your scope of practice this is a reasonable request.

**Shifts changes**

We have been informed that Senior Doctors will be called upon to do additional work and change some of their hours of work to cover the work of RMOs.

You may agree to work extra shifts during the strike. We know that members will want to help out where ever possible to ensure the best possible care is available for patients. NZNO encourages members to consider the need to remain safe by working within scope of practice and by avoiding working long hours during the strike which is, after all, all about unsafe rostering.

A lawful strike does not constitute an emergency situation.

If you require further advice or support please contact our Member Support Centre on 0800 28 38 48

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