



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Westmead cancer crisis exposes system ‘beyond breaking point’**

**Media release: Saturday, 21 June 2025**

ASMOF – The Doctors Union – said revelations in today’s [\*Sydney Morning Herald\*](#) that cancer patients at Westmead Hospital are waiting up to a year for a diagnosis confirm that the NSW health system has moved beyond breaking point, with patient safety and lives now being put at unacceptable risk.

ASMOF NSW Executive Director Andrew Holland said that this was what happened when a health system has been stretched beyond breaking point.

“These delays don’t happen because doctors aren’t working. They happen because the system they work in has been stripped bare. This is the cost of inaction.”

Mr Holland said the Westmead story was not an isolated case and reflects what doctors across the state have been warning for years.

“The revelations at Westmead are devastating, but they’re not new. Doctors have warned that without enough staff, capacity, and support patients would be left waiting and that would impact their care. Now the public is seeing what that looks like.

“The NSW Government’s continued reliance on reviews, inquiries and working groups is no substitute for action.

“You can’t treat cancer with a media release. You can’t run a hospital system on the goodwill of exhausted clinicians.

“The government keeps promising reviews but what we need are more doctors. And we cannot attract and retain doctors in NSW without addressing their pay and conditions.

“Our members are committed to caring for patients, but they are being pushed to breaking point by unsustainable working conditions.

“This isn’t a health system under pressure, it’s a health system breaking down. Doctors have done their part. It’s time the NSW Government did theirs.”

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