Central Coast Local Health District

Minutes

# Wyong Hospital Staff Consultative Committee

Wednesday, 21 February 2024 @ 11.00am

Tutorial Room – Education Centre / TEAMS

**Acknowledgement to Country**

1. **Attendance**

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| --- | --- |
| **Membership** (as per Terms of Reference)  | **Representative** (name)  |
| **Present:**  |   |
| General Manager, Wyong Hospital (Chair) | Peter Williams |
| Director Nursing/Midwifery, Wyong Hospital | Nadine Bridgett |
| Director Clinical Services, Wyong Hospital | Jeff King |
| Clinical Support Services Manager | Donna Walters |
| Erin Frances | NSWNMA |
| Randall Millington | HSU |
| Gabriel Falconer | HR Advisor Wyong |
| Jonathan Morris | HR Manager CCLHD |
| Catherine Lothian | NSWNMA Representative – Wyong  |
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|  |  |
| **Apologies:**  |   |
| Wyong Hospital NSWNMA Branch President | Kelly Falconer |
|   |   |
| **Absent:**  |   |
| HSU Wyong Branch representative | Kirsten Cheetham |
|   |   |
| **In Attendance:**  |   |
| Minute Secretary | Debra Ryan |
|   |   |

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of previous Meeting:**

The minutes from the previous meeting on 16 August 2023, were confirmed as a true and accurate record by: Nadine Bridgett

1. **Business Arising from Previous Meetings as per Action Sheet:** Nil

1. **Standing Agenda Items**

  **4.1  WHS**

JM advised that notification has been sent to the Unions regarding the mould issue at Wyong.

PW provided the following update: In H Block on level 2 in Clinical Spaces, mould has been appearing on the ceiling tiles around the air conditioning vents and in some non-clinical spaces on other levels in meeting rooms. There has been an independent company, NDC, onsite to complete part of the cleaning and remediation process on the mould affected surface tiles and EDP have conducted air testing and monitoring. Health Infrastructure are currently investigating the HVAC system in that building and phase 1 of the remediation work has been completed. Information has also been provided to patients and staff advising that N95 masks would be made available if they have any respiratory type illnesses as we are still waiting for the air testing reports to be provided.

After discussion with the Wyong WHS Consultant and a Teams meeting at the start of the week, early indications from the report is that it still sits in the low risk category. The types of mould found on the ceiling tiles is the same as what can be found in common households and deemed low risk - IPAC were in attendance at both meetings.

The second part of remediation work is to replace the affected ceiling tiles with a different type of ceiling tile. This will take some planning to work through, mainly due to the affected clinical spaces on Level 3 and in ED.

The plan is to expedite the ceiling tile replacement in the Resus area, and we are currently in the process of working through this with the maintenance team. The Redevelopment Team are also working with Health Infrastructure to review the HVAC system and IPAC are happy with the current strategies in place, which includes the introduction of the Chlorclean product in ED and have also suggested using the red Clinell wipes, which are available across the District. PW asked the ED Nurse Manager this morning to follow up on procuring a supply of these.

We are in the process of preparing an updated comms for staff and unions, which will be sent out once we receive the air testing report.

RM asked if the air testing will be a one off or an ongoing process? PW confirmed that following the meeting with EDP on Monday, the first sample of testing was done pre surface mould cleaning, they will do a second round of testing before the tiles are replaced and a third round of testing post remediation phase 2, which is after the tiles are replaced. We also have 4 x air purifying systems in place in the affected clinical areas. RM advised he will be onsite later today and will have a look around these areas.

JM asked if we know what caused the mould? PW advised at this stage and until there is any further feedback from Health Infrastructure, it is being put down to the unusually high levels of humidity that the Coast has been experiencing. The HVAC system is designed to manage air and humidity up to a 65% rating, however we have recorded days of humidity close to 90%. There have been no issues identified with the HVAC system at this stage, with water testing and vent checking all coming back clear. As the second part of the HVAC system, they are also looking into whether we need to install an air curtain system in the air lock between the ambulance bay area and the triage entry. Waiting on further feedback from Health Infrastructure around this.

DW noted an issue from the previous meeting regarding the empty clinical waste bins being stacked on top of one another, this has now been resolved with the bins all in a single layer and no further WHS issues identified.

PW also noted another WHS issue brought to our attention this week in the Cancer Day Unit. This area is in scope for the Stage 3 redevelopment however there is evidence in the ceiling space of rodent/possum activity.

There is a new remediation plan in place to begin next Monday, with an independent contractor cleaning out the ceiling space along with further pest control initiatives to coincide with baiting. The clinical storeroom has been temporarily relocated until the remediation works are completed. As this is part of the Stage 3 redevelopment, our maintenance team need to work closely with the Contractors in this space as there is hoarding already installed for the redevelopment work to commence.

Lift refurbishment works in A Block – Works have been delayed due to the production of the design of the new doors as they are not aligning with the current openings – delays will be a further 6-10 weeks. Lifts 1, 3 and 4 continue to be operational with lift 2 remaining out of commission at this stage. A new disruption notice will be issued from Capital Works for distribution across the site.

**4.2 Security**

DW noted from the previous meeting in August around the routine Helipad checks, that the brief was signed off in October. Security will conduct daily checks Monday - Friday, with monthly checks completed by Security and Maintenance and a quarterly check conducted by Maintenance.

RM asked what these checks involve for Security – DW advised they check the access doors, check the equipment in cupboards, ensure there is no rubbish or loose items lying around cars or utes and check that signage is secure daily. Maintenance check the lights and that the signage is solid, with nothing loose on a monthly & quarterly basis, along with checking there is no rubbish or debris on the landing pad.

**4.3 Recruitment** *JM*

NSW Health have released an updated Recrutiment Selection policy and includes some reform of matters around the establishment of eligibility lists and the removal of selection criteria from some advertising. The recruitment team will soon be out providing education and promoting these changes.

NSW Healthhave also announced a new Workplace Mobility Policy that is currently in the process of being put in place. This is around the intention from the Government to try and retain as much talent as we have within the Public Sector system. For staff that have an impacted or affected status under the Managing Excess Staff policy, efforts will be made to redeploy and retain them, not just within the Health District, but within the wider Public Service. Education sessions are currently being rolled out to explain how this will work in practice. If at some point we get to the stage where we have to let staff go, there must be genuine efforts made for alternate redeployment opportunities within the NSW Public Service.

The NSW Government and Premiers Office have set up a Workplace Mobility team to promote this. JM advised he is happy to share this information with the Unions offline.

RM advised the HSU has receivedthis information from the Ministry and are in further discussions with them. RM asked if it was possible to get a list of vacancies that currently exist at Wyong and Gosford Hospitals for all HSU positions and how many are advertised positions there are across the LHD.

JM to check with the Recruitment Team and forward the information.

1. **New / General Business**

RM will be onsite later today and will contact JM with any issues that may arise. JM will escalate to PW as required.

JK noted that Wyong Hospital car parking remains free of charge, which is good news for staff, visitors and patients.

RM noted parking is a hot topic at several hospitals currently and advised there will be Stop Work actions at a few major hospitals next week as HSU members are not happy with the recent price increases for staff parking.

DW advised that the trial of the PSAs in two wards, as discussed in the previous meeting, has now been completed. The survey responses were positive and very encouraging, which included both nursing and the PSA staff. Survey results will be distributed with minutes.

1. **Meeting Close / Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 11.30am

**Next Meeting**: Wednesday 15 May 2024 @ 11.00am

**CERTIFIED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**……………………………………………………..**

**Name**

**………………………………………….….…….…**

**Signature**

**…………………………………………..……….…**
**Date**