

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

18 December 2023

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Health Services Union  
Level 2 109 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Via Email:** [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Mr Hayes,

**Re: ICU Maitland Hospital Additional Bed**

I write to inform the HSU of a planned change within the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Maitland Hospital, Hunter New England Local Health District (The Health District) which will have an impact on staff.

It is with pleasure that I advise the HSU that additional funding has been received to allow the opening of a 7<sup>th</sup> bed in ICU at Maitland Hospital. The introduction of the 7<sup>th</sup> bed within the ICU department will:

- increase capacity to treat local patients in their local hospital to ensure they are able to remain connected to their community
- Increase critical care capacity within the hospital and the Health District
- provide stability to utilise the 7<sup>th</sup> bed on a permanent basis with the allocation of additional staffing.

The funding will provide the following additional staffing to the ICU department:

- Bedside nursing 1:1 patient care
- 7 night per week Career Medical Officer (CMO) medical coverage
- 4 hours per week Physiotherapist on a Saturday.

The Health District is currently in the process of active recruitment to these positions. Upon successful recruitment and appointment to the new positions the Health District will formally open the 7<sup>th</sup> bed in ICU.

This is a positive enhancement to the ICU Department, to Maitland Hospital and to the wider community that Maitland Hospital supports and provides care.

Please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Fellows, A/Director of Nursing & Midwifery – Lower Hunter Sector on (02) 4087 2032 or email [Vanessa.Fellows@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Vanessa.Fellows@health.nsw.gov.au) should you have any concerns or wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,



**Paula Richards**  
A/General Manager  
Lower Hunter Sector

cc. Vanessa Fellows – A/Director of Nursing & Midwifery, Lower Hunter Sector  
Melissa Booth – Senior HR Consultant, GMHS