

## Memo

Community Mental Health Services

SDOC 24/907

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TO: All Community Mental Health Staff

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CC: Mark Jay, HSU; Jo-Anne McKeough, NSWNMA

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FROM: Tasha Lutz – Director Community Mental Health Services

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SUBJECT: Advice/Consultation proposed changes to acute care worker afterhours shifts

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Following the establishment of Mental Health Consultation Liaison Nurse positions across SNSWLHD, it is proposed to eliminate the afterhours rostering of mental health acute care workers (ACW); including Saturdays and public holidays.

This is a proposal. No decision has been made. I am inviting feedback on the proposal. All feedback will be considered before a decision is made and then advise of the decision will be made.

The Health Service Union and NSW Nurses and Midwives Association will also be provided with this information.

### **Why is this proposal being made?**

Community Mental Health (CMH) have enhanced mental health service provision to the emergency departments and wards across the LHD by establishing 4 Mental Health Consultation Liaison Nurse (MHCLN) positions. The positions will provide 7 days a week service, including public holidays.

As a result, the routine rostering of ACW shifts afterhours (Saturdays and public holidays) will no longer be required. The MHCLN enhancement ensures service delivery to the emergency departments and wards across the LHD is maintained.

Orientation and training in the Mental Health Acute Access Service is available for CMH clinicians with an interest in continuing to provide mental health services afterhours.

Pending consultation and feedback, it is proposed this change take effect Friday 28 March 2024.

### **How would this proposal impact staff?**

CMH clinicians will no longer be routinely rostered to work Saturdays and public holidays to provide mental health services to the emergency departments and wards across the LHD.

### **How do staff provide feedback?**

Written feedback should be provided to Tasha Lutz, Director Community Mental Health via [tasha.lutz@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tasha.lutz@health.nsw.gov.au) by 5pm, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

I look forward to your feedback and will provide a response to feedback and decision by 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.



Tasha Lutz

**Director Community Mental Health**  
**Southern NSW Local Health District**