

23 July 2021

Ms Elizabeth Koff
Secretary, NSW Health
1 Reserve Road
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Email | elizabeth.koff@health.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Koff,

I am writing with respect to concerns raised by our members within NSW Health relating to being able to work from home.

The Union is holding daily Local Health District meetings of members. These meetings are conducted to engage with members within the LHD's and ascertain if there are any issues and to promote communication, particularly in relation to COVID.

At this time a constant theme of concern is that there are members who are able to work from home however, their request is being declined or subject to significant administrative obstruction.

Our members want to comply with the public health advice and directives however, it is of concern to hear that such a reasonable and responsible request is subject to a less than enthusiastic response.

I also understand that remote access for members who are able to work from home would not only ensure maximum safety and compliance in relation to limiting the COVID spread, it would also support workers who are required to self-isolate as a close or casual contact. This would promote enhanced productivity and efficiency within the organisation.

The Union fully supports the health initiatives of NSW Health and will continue to work with NSW Health to overcome this current crisis. In saying this I would request that a serious direction in relation to the ability of our members to work from home is issued to the Chief Executives of each Local Health District as a matter of urgency.

The Union is also being made aware that some members are required to hot desk, share desks as well as work in areas that cannot comply with



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social distancing. At this time it seems incredulous that these conditions could be entertained when the Chief Health Officer has indicated that this is a national emergency.

Clearly, the Union is intent on supporting NSW Health directives however, we must be also confident that NSW Health is insuring compliance within Local Health Districts.

I would also take this opportunity to extend our appreciation in relation to the reintroduction of car parking for health workers at no cost. Not only is it a sensible support for the Health workforce, it is a sensible measure to limit community contact particularly when the public transport system has restricted timetables.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a long, sweeping underline.

GERARD HAYES
Secretary
HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

COPY:
Mr Phil Minns
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NSW Health
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