



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

Via info@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr ~~Hayes~~ *Gerard*

I write in to inform the NSW Health Services Union of planned changes to the Sydney Local Health District's (SLHD) Drug Health Services (DHS) Aboriginal Workforce.

The Sydney Local Health District's vision for Aboriginal Health is to partner with Aboriginal communities and organisations to close the gap in health outcomes. SLHD DHS has a long history of working closely with Aboriginal communities to address issues of drug and alcohol misuse in the community, and a long standing partnership with Redfern Aboriginal Medical Services in delivering drug and alcohol treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A key strategy to increase the number of Aboriginal people engaging with drug and alcohol services is the employment of Aboriginal staff.

SLHD DHS has five identified positions in the total DHS workforce. SLHD DHS proposes to strengthen these positions to better support staff and better meet service demand by:

- Aligning position descriptions for vacant positions under the Aboriginal Health Workers (State) Award;
- Maintain positions within current teams:
 - RPA Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) program
 - RPA Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) (vacant)
 - DHS Harm Reduction Program (HRP) (vacant)
 - DHS District Services
- Reallocate the fifth (vacant) position to support Concord and Canterbury DHS.

Feedback from the Health Services Union is welcome. A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 9 February 2022 where an overview will be provided, along with opportunity for questions. Please direct feedback, or request further information from Ms Judy Pearson, General Manager, Drug Health Services, SLHD via judy.pearson@health.nsw.gov.au. Should you require any further information please contact Ms Pearson via email or telephone on (02) 9378 1300.

Yours sincerely

Dr Teresa Anderson AM
Chief Executive

31-1-22