



9 May 2022

Mr Gerard Hayes
General Secretary
Health Services Union NSW/ACT/QLD
Locked Bag 3, Australia Square
SYDNEY NSW 1215

Via Email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

RE: Proposed Regrade/Reclassification – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Counsellor to Aboriginal Mental Health Trainee – Mid North Coast Local Health District

We write to advise that the Mid North Coast Local Health District ('the District') is proposing to regrade and/or reclassify a 'Child and Adolescent Mental Health Counsellor (Level 2) Aboriginal Identified' role within the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

This position is currently graded as a Counsellor (Level 2) under the *NSW Health Service Health Professionals (State) Award*. This position was established in 2017 and has been occupied twice for approximately 18 months. Multiple unsuccessful attempts have been made to recruit to the position (both internally and externally) since it was last vacated in November 2020. Unfortunately, there have been no suitable applicants identified due to a lack of necessary qualifications and experience.

The District is proposing to regrade/reclassify this clinician role to an Aboriginal Mental Health Trainee position graded as a Welfare Officer (Non-Graduate) Grade 1 pursuant to the 'Welfare Officer – Non-Graduate Determination No. 21 of 2007'. This change will support workforce development by attracting an increased pool of applicants and provide training and educational opportunities for those who are interested in gaining qualifications to be a clinician.

Please find **enclosed** current and proposed Position Descriptions for your review and consideration.

We welcome any feedback on this proposed change to Penny.Jones@health.nsw.gov.au by COB 19th May 2022. If you have any questions in relation to this correspondence or wish to discuss, please contact District Manager Perinatal, Children and Youth Mental Health Programs Sarah Fox on 0447 437 073 or via email at Sarah.Fox3@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Penny Jones
Director Integrated Mental Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs
Mid North Coast Local Health District

cc: Sarah.Fox3@health.nsw.gov.au
Brandon.Sparke@health.nsw.gov.au