

Mr Gerrard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Attention: Mr Jake Conley
By email: jake.conley@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

I am writing to advise you of the proposed closure of the Hillview Child Care Centre based at Port Kembla Hospital which has the potential to affect a number of your members. Please see attached document, *The Closure of the Child Care Service, Port Kembla District Hospital – Plan Proposal for Consultation*.

As context, the Hillview Child Care Centre (the Centre), located on the grounds of Port Kembla District Hospital (PKDH) is the only service of its kind within the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD). ISLHD is in the detailed planning stage for the New Shellharbour Hospital (NSH) and redevelopment of the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital (SDMH) and there are no plans to incorporate a Child Care Centre into these facilities, or elsewhere across ISLHD. In addition, PKDH is in the process of being decanted, with all services moving off site by the end of 2023, early 2024, with further information about this to be issued to the HSU shortly.

In light of the decision to move away from providing this type of service and taking into consideration that the Centre has had ongoing difficulties maintaining adequate staffing, a decision was made to close the Centre in 2023. Staff and clients of the service were made aware of this decision in December 2022, communicated by the previous General Manager SIHG, Mr Luke Worth and have received updates via various redevelopment information forums that have been held over the past 12 months.

In consultation with the Director of the Centre the service has been operating on reduced business hours to accommodate falling enrolments and to cover shortfalls in staffing to maintain compliance with legislation. In considering the difficulties maintaining the client to staffing ratio, as well impacts from the upcoming decant of the Port Kembla Hospital which has resulted in some services already beginning to relocate, the decision has been made to set the closure date as Friday 22 December 2023, providing that the service still remains viable and compliant with legislation in terms of staffing.

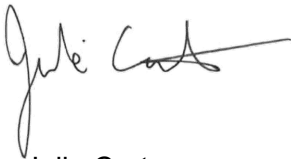
In terms of the closure, it will result in a number of permanent, temporary, and casual positions no longer being required and, in accordance with Section 35 of the *Health Employee's Condition of Employment (State) Award*, consultation with these staff members will now need to occur.

Details of the affected staff positions are outlined in the attached document, *The Closure of the Child Care Service, Port Kembla District Hospital – Plan Proposal for Consultation*.

In line with the consultative provisions of the Health Employee's Conditions of Employment (State) Award, I am writing to inform you that myself, the Director of the Child Care Centre, the Operations Manager Port Kembla Hospital, and Workforce have had an initial meeting with the Child Care staff members (both permanent and contracted staff members), held on Thursday 15 June 2023 and held a follow up meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2023 to discuss the proposed closure and that your member(s) may request your attendance at future meetings.

You may respond to the proposed closure of the centre in writing to myself via email julie.carter@health.nsw.gov.au within 14 days from the date of this letter. Alternatively request a meeting with/without members at their request.

Yours sincerely



Julie Carter
Acting General Manager
Southern Illawarra Hospital Group

Date: 21 June 2023