

29 January 2021
GHRT210129

Mrs Rebecca Tyson
General Manager
Westmead Hospital
Cnr Hawkesbury and Darcy Rds
Westmead NSW 2145

Email: WSLHD-WAGM@health.nsw.gov.au

RE: Central Acute Services Building (CASB) recruitment

Dear Mrs Tyson,

I am writing to raise concerns on behalf of Health Services Union members about ensuring appropriate staffing levels are in place prior to the projected opening date of the Central Acute Services Building (CASB) on 17th February 2021.

As we understand it, the recruitment process for additional positions which have been approved and funded to enhance the workforce is yet to be completed. Bear in mind that training and orientation is a vital part of this process. With less than three weeks until the transition process is due to commence, our members believe many of the positions will not be filled in time - significantly adding to workloads for existing staff and placing patient care and our members' safety at risk.

Our members are dedicated and professional health workers. They are also excited about working in a state-of-the-art new building with modern technology and equipment. However, they are not willing to place themselves or their patients at risk because of poor and potentially unsafe staffing levels.

We understand there are many competing priorities, including those coming from the Ministry of Health and Government. However, we have an obligation to ensure members' rights and safety are maintained. For this reason, we believe the best way forward is to defer the opening of the CASB by 4 weeks, i.e. mid-March 2021.

We believe this additional time will allow the current recruitment process to be completed and new staff to be onboarded, trained and orientated. Most of all, it will ensure our members transition into the CASB with safe, proper staffing levels which minimise potential risk to our members and patient care.

We look forward to continued consultation between yourself, our representatives and delegates leading up to the transition.

Please continue to liaise with either HSU Organiser Brendan Roberts or HSU Industrial Officer Greg O'Donohue regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary NSW ACT QLD.

CC: Kristin Adair – Manager Human Resources Westmead Hospital
Renata Melan – Corporate Services Manager
Randall Millington – HSU Organiser, Westmead Children Hospital
Graeme Loy – Western Sydney LHD Chief Executive



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