

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union NSW/ACT/Qld  
Locked Bag 3  
Australia Square NSW 1215

c/o: [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au); [Tom.Stevanja@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Tom.Stevanja@hsu.asn.au)

**Private & Confidential**

Dear Mr Hayes,

**Re: Notification of Workplace Change – Patient Support Services, John Hunter Hospital**

I am writing to advise you of HealthShare NSW's proposal to alter the current Bedmaker/ afternoon shift Cleaner model within the Patient Support Service department, at John Hunter Hospital.

The proposed alterations are as follows:

- Merging of the two teams (Bedmaker and afternoon shift Cleaner) with a change in title to "Cleaning Squad"
- Scheduled "afternoon shift" duties will be spread across the team
- All staff will be allocated a DECT phone and blocks where they will be responsible for scheduled duties and infectious/discharge cleans and bedmaking as required
- Task allocation will be received via the DECT phone and/or the Leading Hand on duty and/or direct request from the Wards
- Revised Duty schedules to include the new task allocations - each staff member will have a dedicated cleaning responsibility and individual duty schedule
- Fair and consistent distribution of workload among the team
- More accountability to team members (responsible for their allocated block/area)
- Shift length to be 8.5 hours in duration rather than 8 hours to incorporate 30 minute unpaid break as per relevant Award conditions

7 bedmaker positions and 9 afternoon shift cleaning positions have been identified as being impacted by this change in model.

This proposal to alter standard shift patterns is a result of a recent request from Hunter New England Local Health District Operational Management, and subsequent discussions with Healthshare NSW Patient Support Services Operational Management. This change has been proposed to minimise risk to staff, by ensuring workload is fairly distributed amongst the team, including infectious cleaning, to minimise risk of injury and fatigue and to facilitate a better response rate to cleaning and bedmaking as required.

A notification meeting will be held on 30 May 2023 at 1:00pm at John Hunter Hospital to announce the planned alteration to the model to impacted staff (15 staff), and the HSU are welcome to attend. Please let me know if a Union Organiser will attend the meeting.

HealthShare NSW is committed to consultation with HSU and our staff of the impact of this change, therefore if you have any questions, or to request a USCC to be arranged please contact Kirra Noonan, HR Business Partner via [Kirra.Noonan@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kirra.Noonan@health.nsw.gov.au) or 0438 079 198.

Yours sincerely



Kate Ireland

**A/ Operations Manager, Patient Services and Planning, John Hunter Hospital**

Date: 22 May 2023

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