

Private and Confidential

8 August 2022

Mr Gerard Hayes
NSW Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: info@hsu.asn.au; secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Hunter Valley Community Mental Health relocation

I write to notify the Health Services Union (HSU) of the relocation of Hunter Valley Community Mental Health Service (HVCMHs) from their current location of 555 High Street Maitland to the old Maitland Hospital (550-560 High Street) from Tuesday, 23 August 2022.

The temporary relocation of the staff to a centralised area on the Hospital campus will provide a safe and secure working environment until they can be moved to a more permanent location.

A commitment of \$22 million was made in the recent state budget for the construction of a new integrated community and community mental health services building on the New Maitland Hospital site at Metford.

It is a welcomed announcement and the District will share further details with staff and community when available.

I can advise that a number of meetings have occurred between local managers and Hunter HVCMHs staff about the temporary move to the old Maitland Hospital. This includes a formal meeting on Thursday, 28 April 2022 where the following was discussed:

- clinical and non-clinical spaces
- smaller offices to manage noise
- desks and other furnishing requests
- natural light and window views to outside
- the need for a larger tea room
- telehealth spaces
- welcoming waiting area
- sensitivity to former patients returning to the ward for community-based care
- group and family-friendly spaces
- toilets for staff
- duress systems

- egress doors
- phone systems
- lighting
- parking

Discussions are also ongoing with discrete teams, service streams and individuals to identify other needs. Preliminary design options were developed and presented to the team for further discussion. The community team also raised and minuted this subject at their staff meeting on 9 June 2022.

Since that time services and staff have been advised of the final move plans in correspondence from the General Manager, Mental Health on 6 July 2022. This was then followed up with correspondence on 15 July 2022 confirming the move dates. A detailed plan and FAQ's document was shared with staff on 20 July 2022, with all staff meetings held on 21 July 2022 and the 4 August 2022, in which all aspects of the move were discussed with the opportunity for comment and questions.

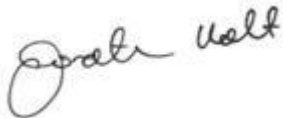
HVCMHS staff have been engaged in the discussions and changes have been implemented based on staff input. We will continue to communicate and consult with them as we approach the move date. I reiterate this relocation is a pure decant of staff to the new location with no changes to structure, technology, organisation or service delivery.

The Health Safety Representative has also been working with staff to address any WHS requirements.

We wish to work collaboratively with HVCMHS staff to make this temporary relocation as straightforward as possible.

If you have any questions regarding these matters please contact me on 40335180.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Holt
General Manager
Mental Health Services
Hunter New England Local Health District

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