

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

10 July 2023

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

By email: [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)  
[info@hsu.asn.au](mailto:info@hsu.asn.au)  
[Jeremy.Lappin@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Jeremy.Lappin@hsu.asn.au)

Attention: Jeremy Lappin- Industrial Officer

Dear Mr Hayes,

**Re: Temporary relocation of some John Hunter Hospital wards to Maitland Hospital**

I write to notify the HSU of a change occurring within Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD). The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) is entering a new phase, to connect the existing hospital structure to the new acute services building, to deliver enhanced and expanded facilities to meet the health needs of the local community.

While these works will be staged to minimise disruption, some patients and staff will need to be temporarily transferred, including from John Hunter Hospital to Maitland Hospital.

I assure you this is a temporary relocation, with all staffing and service delivery continuing to be managed out of John Hunter Hospital. In total, 28 beds from Rehab (E1), Rankin Park Centre and General Medicine (G1) will relocate to Maitland Hospital from 18 October 2023, for a period of no longer than 24-months. These wards have been carefully selected based on the type and acuity of patients, as well as the interactions and reliance on other services.

Once construction is complete, these services will be transferred back to John Hunter Hospital. The attached frequency asked questions provides further detail on the planned change.

**Summary of staffing changes**

While there will be no job loss or changes to pay or conditions of employment, there will need to be some variations to locations of work. This process will be managed across several stages:

- **Stage 1: Expression of Interest – E1, G1 and Rankin Park Centre North/South**

Colleagues from these wards will have the opportunity to temporarily transfer their place of work to Maitland Hospital while construction is underway. Appropriate skill mix and experience will be considered to ensure patients continue to receive safe and high-quality care.

- **Stage 2: Expression of Interest – John Hunter Hospital**

If interest from colleagues of E1, G1 and Rankin Park Centre North/South to temporarily transfer is limited, an expression of interest will be extended to staff across John Hunter Hospital.

- **Stage 3: Redeployment of colleagues from E1, G1 and Rankin Park Centre North/South**

If both the first and second stages of our EOI process do not receive adequate interest, it may be necessary to redeploy staff from E1, G1 or Rankin Park Centre North/South to Maitland Hospital.

Staff have been advised today (10 July 2023) of the change to work arrangements and been provide the attached letter. We are committed to finding the best solution together In consideration of individual circumstances and preferences.

### Consultation Process

HNELHD acknowledge with any change process, there will be questions arising from staff. Accordingly, HNELD will establish a joint USCC with representatives from ASMOF, NSWNMA and the HSU, which is proposed to be held next week. The proposed dates are as follows and we invite you to confirm your preference via email: [Eve.Youman@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Eve.Youman@health.nsw.gov.au) so the joint USCC can be convened:

- Friday 21 July 2023, 11:00AM – 12:00PM
- Tuesday 25 July 2023, 1:00PM – 2:00PM

If you have any question about this process, please contact me via telephone 02 4921 4494 or via email [Julie.Tait@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Julie.Tait@health.nsw.gov.au) . Alternatively, you may choose to contact Ms Eve Youman, HR Manager – Greater Metropolitan Health Services via telephone 02 4985 3283 or via email: [Eve.Youman@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Eve.Youman@health.nsw.gov.au) .

Yours sincerely,



**Julie Tait**

Executive General Manager  
John Hunter Hospital  
Hunter New England Local Health District

cc. Eve Youman - HR Manager, GMHS

Attachment: Letter to Staff  
FAQ's