

19th of January 2020

Mr Stewart Dowrick
Chief Executive
MNCLHD
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stewart.dowrick@health.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Dowrick

Serious Safety Issues at PMBH

Following our meeting last Friday, I wanted to reinforce the serious concerns the Health Services Union has in relation to safety and security following the serious injuries to staff that occurred in the emergency department.

Though steps are being taken to look into the issues, HSU members remain concerned that the issues are not being addressed appropriately. In particular, HSU members are outraged that MNCLHD are pursuing a root cause analysis process instead of a full external investigation.

HSU members call on MNCLHD to agree that:

- That an independent investigation be undertaken into the events in the emergency department where five (5) HSAs were injured. The members outlined no faith or trust in local management to undertake a fair and unbiased investigation.
- After the external investigation concludes, that feedback is provided to all staff with the findings and action plans.
- Effective immediately, any time HSAs are required to respond to an incident in the Emergency Department, they are, upon entering the department, fully briefed as to the incident, including the history of the patient/aggressor. Further, the members demand that, as security resources for the PMBH, they decide whether a takedown is safe and not that of a clinical worker. The HSAs will determine if police are required to assist and until such times as the police respond, the takedown does not go ahead. In addition, debriefs must go ahead after every incident.
- That adequate security staff are on shift at all time. As an example, that the MNCLHD employ enough HSAs to fully roster a 8-8-6 model (8 HSAs on morning shift; 8 on afternoon shift and 6 on night shift) seven days/week. Further, the HSAs are not to undertake any terminal cleaning duties in the ED or other areas of the hospital that would prevent them responding to a duress call.

HSU members will be meeting this Friday to discuss these serious safety concerns. We ask that a response is provided by COB Thursday the 21st of January 2021.

To respond please contact HSU Organiser Michael Kearns by email to michael,kearns@hsu.asn.au or phone 0448058949.



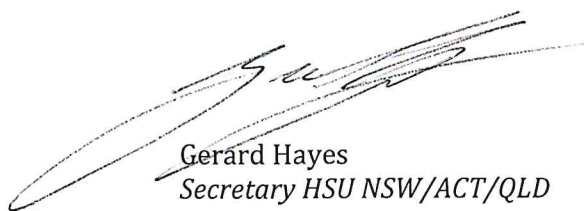
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Yours sincerely



Gerard Hayes
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