

25 January 2021
GHBH210125

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister Health and Medical Research
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

RE: Violent Incident at the Port Macquarie Base Hospital 9th January 2021

On Saturday 9th January 2021, an incident involving violence occurred within the Emergency Department of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital (the PMBH). The incident left no less than five (5) HSU members with severe injuries. The HSU, in advocating for our members, called upon the MNCLHD to undertake a number of action items including meetings with Health and Security Assistants (HSAs), commissioning an external and independent investigation into the incident, implementing local procedures to safeguard health workers' safety and the safety of the local community and public who access health services at the Hospital. To date, the MNCLHD refuses to commission an external and independent investigation, instead it is undertaking a Root Cause Analysis review controlled by its Clinical Governance Directorate.

The HSU members have voiced their lack of faith and trust in the MNCLHD ability to undertake an unbiased and transparent review. The HSU members acknowledge that the MNCLHD has the right to conduct such a review in accordance with NSW Health's Incident Management Policy (PD 2020-047). As such, at an extraordinary meeting of HSU members at the PMBH, the HSU members have called for your intervention into this matter and for you to commission and fully external and independent investigation, involving and inclusive of the HSU.

The HSU appreciates your assistance thus far and thank you for contacting our members subsequent to the incident. The HSU, on behalf of members at the PMBH, call upon you to commission an investigation, independent to the MNCLHDs RCA and involve and include the HSU as part of the review committee. The HSU is seeking a formal reply to the HSU by C.O.B. Wednesday 27th January 2021.

Regards,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary HSU NSW ACT QLD.



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