



**Office of the Director  
Integrated Mental Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs**

16 February 2021

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union NSW  
Locked Bag 3  
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Via Email: [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Mr Hayes

**Re: MNCLHD Community Mental Health Macksville Living Skills Program**

I write to inform you of the impending cessation of the MNCLHD Community Mental Health Macksville Living Skills Program. The Macksville Living Skills program has been providing psychosocial disability support for people with serious mental illness in Nambucca Valley for over 17 years operating as a twice weekly group program on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It has been identified that psychosocial disability community participation support would be best provided by Non-Government agencies with planning occurring towards this outcome.

Due to the recent disposal of the property from which this program operated, the service was temporarily relocated to the Nambucca Health One facility whilst a consumer transition plan to NDIS/Aged Care for psychosocial supports was completed

Industry changes have included:

- NDIS has become available for people with psychosocial disability
- The focus of NSW Mental Health services has moved to the provision of core specialist mental health assessment and treatment

Contact has been made with local NDIS linked services, in addition to the District's own NDIS transition and Aged care assessment team resources. The intent is for the current service to remain in place until consumers can be transitioned to alternative disability and aged care support services. Transition of current consumers is near completion.

- Realignment of direct service delivery and staffing arrangements

Current staffing of the Team is a mix of two (2) permanent part time employees (0.63 FTE) Enrolled Nurse 0.42 Part Time – Permanent, Aide 0.21 Part Time – Permanent.



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The staff will be offered re-deployment to suitable positions within the Coffs Harbour Rehabilitation Unit or Kempsey Mental Health Inpatient Unit on transition of the consumers and completion of the current model.

Consultation with the employees has commenced.

The MNCLHD looks forward to working with you and your members as we progress this change.

Should you require further information or assistance please contact me on 0418 208 498 or email [Penny.Jones@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Penny.Jones@health.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**Penny Jones**

**Director Integrated Mental Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs**