



4 November 2022

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union NSW/ACT

**Private and confidential**

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

Dear Mr Hayes

**Somerset Cottage Childhood Education Service**

I write to advise that Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (**NBMLHD**) is proposing to divest the on-site early childhood education services for staff on the Nepean Hospital campus to an alternative provider.

As advised to Somerset Cottage staff today, the District is committed to having an on-site early childhood centre for staff on the Nepean Hospital campus. However, in keeping with some other Local Health Districts, NBMLHD has called for expressions of interest (EOI) for alternate providers to operate the early childhood education service at Somerset Cottage.

The District recognises the onsite professional early childhood services, is essential for many of the staff to balance work and parenting responsibilities. During the EOI process, Somerset Cottage will continue to operate as usual.

The District established the on-campus service in 1991 because at the time there were few providers capable of offering the services our staff need. However, there are now many accredited providers, including those with expertise in operating extended hours services.

By having on-campus early childhood education services conducted by an experienced external provider, NBMLHD can redirect resources to its core business - delivering high quality and comprehensive healthcare.

NBMLHD is committed to meeting its obligation to consult with staff and the Union, consistent with the obligations under the *Health Employees Conditions of Employment (State) Award*, and the NSW Health PD2019\_069, *Industrial Consultative Arrangements in the NSW Health Service*.

The District will work closely with you, and will provide further information, as the District moves through the process.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact David Holmes, Employee/Industrial Relations Manager on 0438 185 258 or via email at [David.Holmes@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:David.Holmes@health.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Jacqui Clark  
**Director, People & Culture**