

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

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 frequently 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.

I acknowledge that any change to your work arrangements may cause some uncertainty. We're committed to finding the best solution to suit your individual circumstances and preferences.

If you have questions about this process, I encourage you to speak with your manager. Please note that the relevant unions and associations have also been notified of this planned change.

Also, if you are experiencing feelings of uncertainty or anxiety, please remember we have a free and confidential counselling service available to all colleagues of Hunter New England Local Health District.

Please call (02) 4985 3289 if you would like to arrange an appointment with our employee assistance program.

I want to thank you for your understanding and patience while we work through these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Tait', written in a cursive style.

Julie Tait

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