



Mr Michael Kearns
Organiser
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt St., Sydney NSW 2000

15/4/2021

Sent via email: Michael Kearns, Organiser Michael.Kearns@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Kearns,

RE: TVH Consult Rooms

I am writing in response to concerns raised by a HSU member via Mr Peter Kelly, regarding the numbers and types of rooms proposed for the Tweed Valley Hospital. There has been extensive consultation with clinicians and other staff during this design process, including consultation with all members of the Allied Health Team. Please find detailed below responses to the concerns raised.

1. The 6 Consult rooms have been allocated to staff: rooms 1-4 for paediatricians. 5-6 for SP

It is proposed that there will be an integrated Paediatric Ambulatory Care area at TVH. This area will be located adjacent to the Paediatric Ward, and consist of a variety of different clinical rooms, as per the definitions and descriptions within the AusHFG. These rooms include six Consult Rooms, two Interview Rooms, two Physiotherapy Gyms, two Occupational Therapy Rooms, one Multipurpose Room, one Procedure Room and a Short Stay area. All these rooms will be bookable by staff working within the Paediatric Ambulatory Care area, and no room is owned by a particular individual or discipline. It should be noted that under the AusHFG, Physiotherapy Gyms and Occupational Therapy Rooms are specific design types and does not designate ownership of these rooms by these professions. There are no specific design requirements under the AusHFG for other Allied Health professions such as Speech Pathology, Counselling and Dietetics. Four of the Consult Rooms will be fitted out with plinths and two will not include plinths, as is considered more suited for developmental assessments.

2. 2 interview rooms will need to be used as consult rooms due to insufficient consult rooms. These need to have the full height built in joinery cupboard, minus the examination couch and minus the sink (as per the same as consult rooms 5 and 6). Why are the consult rooms 5 and 6 are allowed to have the built in joinery cupboards and not the 2 interview rooms ?.

These rooms will be used as interview rooms, not as consult rooms. Interview rooms are designed for interviewing, assessing and treating clients who typically do not require more medicalised examinations (such as might require plinths and sinks). Both the Main Hospital Ambulatory Care Zone and the Mental Health Ambulatory Care Zone contain a mix of Interview and Consult Rooms, depending on the projected needs of the clients. In the Mental Health Ambulatory Care Zone, there is a higher ratio of Interview Rooms to Consult Rooms due to the nature of their interventions involving more therapeutic counselling. Under the AusHFG, built in joinery is included within a Consult Room, but it is not included in an Interview Room.

3. Clinicians (paed dietitian, paed c and f counselling) will need to use these interview rooms as insufficient consult rooms. They need to have the storage cupboards and shelving, so that they can be adequately used for family services.

Given the nature of the duties undertaken by dietitians and counsellors, Interview Rooms are more likely to be appropriate than Consult Rooms for most clients. For those activities that would be more appropriate for a different type of room, then that type of room can be booked. As per the AusHFG, Built in joinery is not included in Interview Rooms.

4. *There is only 1 storage cupboard for the paed allied health (near the physio gym) and this will not be large enough for all services and will involve crossing over of the main walk way for families to come in and out, to take equipment across into interview rooms*

There is a storage room located within this area, as well as other additional storage solutions. This storage room was tested with all the identified pieces of equipment and shown to be of adequate size. If there is a specific item of equipment that your member is concerned about, could you please provide this information so that we can ensure it is included in the planning.

5. *Unsure why there is such a problem with having storage in the interview rooms. What is the issue. Can only see this as a positive so that there is less demand on the one storage cupboard.*

As discussed above, under the AUSHFG, built in joinery is not included in interview rooms.

I hope that this advice has helped to allay your members concerns. If you would like further information or to discuss this issue further, please contact me on Christopher.hanna1@health.nsw.gov.au or 07 5506 7519,

Yours Sincerely,



Chris Hanna
A/Manager,
Community and Allied Health
Tweed Murwillumbah Byron