

31 May 2022

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2
109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

This letter is to advise you of changes to Pathology services at Port Macquarie Base Hospital (PMBH) and subsequent flowons throughout the Hastings Macleay Network.

Pathology services at PMBH have been delivered through a fully outsourced contracting arrangement with Laverty Pathology since 2004. From 31 October 2022, pathology services at PMBH will transfer to NSW Health Pathology (NSWHP). Patient safety and care will be paramount during the transition.

The performance of both the private and public pathology sector throughout the COVID pandemic has highlighted the role and importance of public pathology in NSW, as well as the advantages of the public sector providing pathology services to PMBH as part of a networked service.

Consolidation of PMBH into the NSWHP system also enables the creation of a single pathology model across the Hastings Macleay Network, allowing clinicians faster access to vital results via a single laboratory information system.

NSWHP will establish a laboratory at Port Macquarie Base Hospital providing the full range of pathology testing services, as well as inpatient pathology and outpatient collection service. It will also:

- deliver an enhanced point of care testing service, enabling specimens to be collected and analysed at the patient bedside providing fast, accurate results to inform patient care.
- establish an Anatomical Pathology (AP) service hub in the region to provide local services at Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.
- provide expanded on-site microbiology testing.
- provide automated specimen tracking via NSWHP's statewide electronic specimen tracking system to ensure specimens arrive safely.

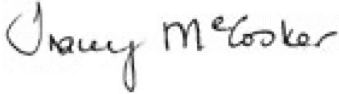
NSWHP is in discussion with the current private provider about offering appropriately qualified staff roles with the new public pathology service.

NSWHP will ensure all staff are provided with the necessary resources, training, and support to provide quality, safe and reliable services.

We will consult with all stakeholders throughout the planning of the transition.

It is expected that these changes will be announced publicly by Mid North Coast LHD later today. We ask that this information is embargoed until this announcement is made.

Yours sincerely,



Tracey McCosker
Chief Executive
NSW Health Pathology