

15 February 2024

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

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

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

Dear Mr Hayes

**Re: Closure of Wallsend Aged Care Facility**

I write to you regarding an important and difficult decision that has been made regarding the future of Wallsend Aged Care Facility (WACF).

Throughout the 31-year journey of WACF, our dedication to prioritising residents and their families as the central focus of our mission has remained steadfast. Throughout this time we have provided an unparalleled level of clinical care to our residents, earning WACF positive feedback and fostering meaningful relationships with their families and caregivers.

Our facility, housed in an old hospital building, has remained unchanged since it was established more than 30 years ago. Updating it to meet contemporary standards for residential aged care poses significant challenges, and it no longer provides the home-like environment our residents deserve.

In recent years we've witnessed a steady decline in occupancy as modern alternatives, offering a more homely atmosphere, have gained preference. Faced with these challenges, we've made the difficult decision to close Wallsend Aged Care Facility.

We are committed to working with each staff member during their own transition. To this end each staff member of WACF will be provided the opportunity to meet with Human Resources to discuss their individual circumstances regarding their employment and future opportunities.

A meeting was held on Thursday 15 February 2024 to discuss the closure with staff and provide an opportunity to meet with Human Resources.

Our utmost priority remains the well-being of our residents and staff and we are committed to working collaboratively with our residents, their families and caregivers and our staff to ensure a smooth transition for the residents and for the staff into their next chapter. Wallsend Aged Care Facility will close once all residents have been settled into their new home.

There is a total headcount of seven (7) health services staff that hold positions within WACF. Six (6) of these staff hold permanent positions, equivalent to an FTE of 4.1. The following table provides the relevant summary detail.

**Staffing Summary**

Status	Headcount	FTE
<b>Permanent Staff</b>		
Technical Officer Grade 1	2	2
Admin Officer A04	1	1.05
Admin Officer A03	1	
Physiotherapist	1	0.42

Hunter New England Local Health District  
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<b>Temporary Staff</b>		
Allied Health Assistant	1	0.63
<b>Casual Staff</b>	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
<b>Summary Total</b>	7	4.1

As per the NSW Health Policy Directive, PD2012\_021 *Managing Excess Staff of the NSW Health Service* redeployment for affected permanent staff will be considered in the first instance. Where redeployment is unsuccessful, consideration may be given to a formal offer of Voluntary Redundancy.

We have also notified the NSW Nurses' and Midwives' Association of the changes and impact on staff as part of our consultative obligations.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Louise Lazic on (02) 4924 6540 or email [Louise.Lazic@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Lazic@health.nsw.gov.au) or Melissa Booth, Senior HR Consultant on (02) 4985 3492 or email [Melissa.Booth@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.Booth@health.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Louise Lazic**  
General Manager  
Community & Aged Care Services – Greater Newcastle Sector  
Hunter New England Local Health District

c.c. Melissa Booth – Senior HR Consultant