



Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2500

Via email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

I am writing to advise you of proposed changes to the structure of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), Research Directorate which has the potential to affect your members.

The Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) has historically partnered with the University of Wollongong to finance health and medical research institutes that service the needs of the region.

The changing landscape of research in ISLHD has created an opportunity to reconsider our approach to research development. The recent dissolution of both the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI) and the Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI) partnerships has left the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions without access to a research institute. This hampers innovations in clinical care and impacts the long-term health and wellbeing of the community. As a result, we have decided to establish an independent research institute, outside of the LHD.

The ISLHD Research Strategy 2024-2027 will reflect the priorities for research within the ISLHD, as well as the collaboration between ISLHD and the research institute that will uplift health outcomes of the community and raise the profile of ISLHD as a hub for regional, remote and rural research.

Attached is a copy of the proposed changes to the Research Directorate. This structure has been discussed with the relevant staff.

In accordance with the consultative provisions of the Award, you are invited to provide any comments regarding the proposed changes. We have provided a two-week consultation period which will close on 7 February 2024.

Alternatively, if you have any queries regarding this notification, please contact ISLHD Director of Research Operations, Leah McManus on 0416 556 590.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bruce Ashford
Executive Director of Research
Date: 11 January 2024
Attachment: Restructure Plan