

Human Resources - Greater Metropolitan Health Services /
Children, Young People & Families
PO Box 21, Waratah NSW 2298
Telephone: (02) 4985 3152
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Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

14 September 2023

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Proposed trial - Wardsperson in Ward H2

I write in relation to a proposed change to have a Wardsperson allocated to Ward H2 at the John Hunter Hospital. The proposed change would move one full-time equivalent Wardsperson from the general Wardsperson pool to the H2 ward between the hours of 12pm and 8pm, Monday to Friday. This change has been proposed to improve the provision of Wardsperson duties during the identified period whereby the ward is experiencing lengthy delays.

At present, the workload for Wardspersons across the general pool is distributed via requests logged on WASP (electronic request system), however it has been raised that Ward H2 has experienced delays for requests due to competing demands.

Ward H2 experiences the most patient movements of any adult inpatient units due to the patients often being undifferentiated medical patients who regularly require transfers to various other departments such as Imaging, diagnostics, or inpatient units. H2 contains MACU (Medical Assessment and Coordination Unit) and ESSU (Emergency Short Stay Unit) which are used as a location for short stays for assessment prior to discharge or specialty inpatient bed allocation, reducing the impact on the Emergency Department.

The proposed change would result in one Wardsperson being transferred from the general pool to Ward H2 to help improve the provision of services, for a trial period of one (1) month, to be reviewed and continued if deemed necessary. The Wardsperson will also be available to work in other Wards within the hospital if necessary.

Duties for this role will remain unchanged to other Wardspersons across the hospital and range from cleaning to patient flow and be responsible for all the movement within and out of the ward. The change would provide Ward H2 with a Wardsperson during the busiest periods of the day to reduce delays in patient movements, greatly increasing patient flow and freeing beds within MACU and the Emergency Department for new presentations.

It is planned to commence the trial from 9 October 2023 for a 4 week period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4921 5369 or via email to melissa.harvey@health.nsw.gov.au should you wish to clarify any aspect of this process or have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Melissa Harvey

Facility Services Manager, John Hunter Hospital



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