

3 August 2022

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary , HSU
E: Secretary@HSU.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

Our Ref: D22/0000943

RE: Murwillumbah District Hospital

I am writing to advise about the future of Murwillumbah District Hospital (MDH), due to the impending opening of the new Tweed Valley Hospital (TVH) which is expected to open late in 2023.

Given the opening of the new hospital, some changes to service delivery will be necessary. I can confirm that Murwillumbah District Hospital will continue to play a substantial and important role in providing health services to people in Murwillumbah and the Tweed Valley well into the future.

Northern NSW LHD recently conducted a comprehensive analysis and planning assessment of current and future health care needs in the region.

Most of the existing services currently provided at MDH will remain operational. Only a few services will be transferred to the new TVH once opened. The District can confirm there will be no reduction in staff as a result of those changes.

Services which are remaining include:

- Emergency Department
- Low acuity inpatient medical services
- Sub-acute
- Low-complex day surgery such as ophthalmology and endoscopy
- Rehabilitation
- Palliative care services
- Renal dialysis
- Chemotherapy and infusion services
- Outpatient services
- Community services.

Services which will change include:

- higher-complexity surgery will move to the Tweed Valley Hospital
- Acute (complex) inpatient services will move to the Tweed Valley Hospital

I acknowledge there has been a period of uncertainty while the strategic direction and future operations of MDH were being examined. It is pleasing to see this process is now complete, providing all health care staff, patients and the community alike certainty over the future of MDH.

Murwillumbah is, and will continue to be, an important health care facility in our region, and one that has an excellent reputation for providing quality care thanks to dedicated and compassionate staff.

Further consultation, work and planning for the transition process will occur over the next few months. In the meantime, NNSWLHD will liaise with MDH staff, key stakeholders as well as the Industrial associations throughout the process.

If you have any questions about the services or transition process, please contact me at Richard.Buss@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Buss'.

Richard Buss
Director of Workforce

cc: Michael Kearns