

To preserve acute Mental Health Services in Lismore for our community during this period, specifically services within the Adult Inpatient Mental Health Unit (Tallowwood), the Older Persons Mental Health Inpatient Unit (Lilli Pilli) and the ACS, the following interim service changes are required:

**Interim Service Changes (18 December 2023– 15 January 2024)**

- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient unit (Kamala) will close for this four (4) week period;
- Staffing within the Adult Inpatient Mental Health Unit (Tallowwood) and Older Persons Mental Health Inpatient Unit (Lilli Pilli) will be supplemented with the redeployment of Kamala Nursing staff to these units. Allied Health staff working in Kamala will be allocated other suitable duties. A contingency plan will be in place should a young person require admission during this period;
- Byron ACS services will support the Ballina catchment area for Category D calls via the Mental Health Access Line (MHAL), allowing Lismore ACS to focus on Lismore and Casino areas. Byron ACS services may require further staffing to support this change and this will be made accordingly;
- The Byron Sub-Acute Mental Health unit (Tuckeroo) will maintain a 10-bed capacity for Discharge to Community Stream patients. This will support patient flow through the acute mental health services. Suitable staff may be redeployed from Tuckeroo to assist Byron ACS services as required.

**Supports to assist the interim Service Changes**

- Staff redeployed during this period, will participate in a supportive induction to the respective units/service;
- Clinical Nurses Educators will be rostered and available within Tallowwood and Lilli Pilli inpatient units to support staff throughout this period;
- Operational and clinical management will also be rostered and available to assist and support staff throughout this period;
- Staff will continue to have access to wider supports such as the availability of the Employee Assistance Program.

In moving forward communication will be issued to Kamala, Tuckeroo and ACS staff to advise them of these interim service changes and the planned supports to assist during this time. Staff will have the opportunity to raise questions and concerns and provide feedback to their respective operational managers. Staff with specific individual circumstances will also be provided the opportunity to identify their circumstances with their operational manager for further consideration.

Please note, staff with pre-planned and approved leave will continue this leave as planned during this period. Non-clinical staff within CAMHS will be offered the opportunity to be redistributed to undertake equivalent duties within MHAOD services or utilise personal leave during this period.

MHAOD is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of its staff, whilst maintaining safe and effective clinical services for our communities. Your cooperation and assistance in supporting our managers and staff during this interim period is appreciated.