



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

Email: secretary@hsu.asn.au and info@hsu.asn.au

Copy: Michael.Kearns@hsu.asn.au
Richard.buss@health.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Hayes

Re: Emergency Department Short Stay Unit - Ballina District Hospital (BDH)

I write to formally advise the Health Services Union (HSU) of the recent agreement reached in regard to the Emergency Department Short Stay Unit (EDSSU).

As you are aware, the Health Services Union placed BDH into dispute on 17 December 2021 for 'failing to genuinely consult' regarding the opening of the EDSSU.

Since that dispute lodgement and since commencing in the role of EODON, both the Northern New South Wales Local Health District (NNSWLHD) and myself have been focussed on maintaining open lines of communication and ensuring all issues raised are addressed constructively.

Record of Outcomes

On Thursday 19 October 2023, agreement was reached at a meeting convened in my office and via Teams. Michael Kearns provided the following confirmation in an email to me on Tuesday 24 October 2023:

I am writing to you following the disputes resolution meeting held on Thursday, 19th October. As a result of the NNSWLHD confirming that no HASA or Wards person resources would be required to assist with ambulant patients transferring from the Emergency Department (ED) and its Short Stay Unit (SSU), the HSU and members have agreed that the dispute surrounding the EDSSU has been resolved.

To achieve resolution of this dispute, the NNSWLHD also confirmed that review meetings will be held in three (3) and six (6) month intervals following the opening of the EDSSU, to ensure that no other classification of worker is transferring patients into the EDSSU from the ED or any other department within the Ballina Hospital.

The HSU reserves the right to place this issue back into dispute any concern arises from members.

The concluding statements from our roundtable meeting were recorded by my management team as follows:

1. Information put forward to the meeting indicated that no additional assistance is required due to the EDSSU patients being ambulant.
2. EDSSU implementation be monitored and reviewed early 2024.
3. Important for management to monitor that clinical staff are not doing the work of HSU staff.
4. Michael Kearns will send formal correspondence to the LHD confirming the dispute is resolved.
5. The EODON will send formal correspondence to HSU Secretary, Gerard Hayes acknowledging that the matter is resolved and that the workflow review will be dealt with as a separate operational issue.
6. To be acknowledged that the consistent efforts of the members have supported and enabled this dispute resolution.

Implementation Moving Forward

The NSNWLHD will now proceed towards implementation and opening of the EDSSU.

Commitments as outlined in Michael Kearns' email included above, and the above points detailed in the meeting summary will be honoured as part of the implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Kearns and the local HSU delegates for their constructive input, hard work and consistent efforts to progress this matter to conclusion.

NNSWLHD looks forward to working collaboratively with the BDH staff and the HSU to support a successful implementation, and acknowledges this as an overwhelmingly positive outcome for the provision of health services to Ballina and its surrounding communities.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email:

Melanie.AllanMale@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Melanie Allan-Male
Executive Officer/Director of Nursing

Date: 27 / 10 / 2023