Important message for HSU members working in Justice Health at Parklea

Dear Member,

The HSU has received the attached notice regarding the current market testing of health services at Parklea Correctional Centre. Your HSU Organiser will be in contact with you to arrange a mass members’ meeting to discuss this and the implications to you.

In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact Syvannah Harper, Industrial Officer at the HSU at syvannah.harper@hsu.asn.au with your concerns.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT
Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union (HSU)  
Level 2  
109 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Hayes,

I write regarding the NSW Government’s current market testing of all services at Parklea Correctional Centre (the Centre), including health services, and the impact this may have on some of your members.

As a public sector bid was not invited as part of the tender process, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (the Network) will cease provision of health services at the Centre from 1 April 2019, when the new contract commences.

On 27 February 2018, the NSW Government announced that three companies have been shortlisted to progress to the next phase of the tender process. They are G4S, Serco and joint venture partners MTC/Broadpectrum. A decision on the successful bid is expected in October 2018.

From now until the conclusion of the current contract in March 2019, the Centre will be in a transition phase, with the Network continuing to deliver healthcare during this period. Once a private provider is identified, the Network will work with them as they move toward full management of the Centre from 1 April 2019.

The Network has been in regular contact with affected staff to provide information and support, including a written letter from myself outlining the Government’s recent announcement and the impact for staff. A copy of that letter is enclosed for information. The Network will work closely with affected staff to identify opportunities in the Network for equivalent roles in reasonable proximity to the Centre.

The Network would also like to work with the HSU to ensure the best possible support to our allied health staff through this period of change.

Should you wish to discuss the above or require any further information, please contact Bronwyn Hughes, Director Workforce on 9700 3044.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Forrest  
Chief Executive  
28 February 2018
Dear [insert recipient’s name]

Re: Outcome of Expressions of Interest for Parklea Correctional Centre Tender

Late in 2017, Network representatives spoke to you and your colleagues at Parklea Correctional Centre (the Centre) to detail planned changes that will affect your employment with Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (the Network).

Information provided by Operations & Nursing and Workforce representatives verbally to staff on duty on 9 October 2017, included that the NSW Government had announced its intention to market test all services at the Centre, including health services. Also, that despite lobbying by the Network, a public sector bid was not invited. This means health services at the Centre will no longer be provided by the Network from 1 April 2019, when the new contract for the successful bid will commence.

The process has progressed since that time so I am writing to let you know that on 27 February 2018, the NSW Government announced that three companies have been shortlisted in a tender process for the future operation of the Centre. They are G4S, Serco and joint venture partners MTC/Broadspectrum. GEO Group, which has operated the Centre since 2009 when the prison’s operations were privatised, has not been shortlisted and therefore will cease operating the Centre on 31 March 2019.

The three shortlisted organisations will now be invited to the next phase of the tender process, which is to submit detailed plans for assessment. Following review of these submissions, the NSW Government will appoint a new provider for services at the Centre.

I have been advised that the new provider should be selected in October this year and I will update you when this occurs.

Your position at Parklea Correctional Centre is affected by this announcement and the Network is committed to working closely with you as the process moves through its next phases, so that everyone is informed and supported.

From now until the conclusion of the current contract in March 2019, the Centre will be in a transition phase with the Network continuing to deliver healthcare during this period. Once a private provider is identified, the Network will work with them as they transition into assuming full management of the Centre from 1 April 2019.

I appreciate this information introduces a period of uncertainty for you, your colleagues and your families. Please be assured the Network will work closely with you and all staff affected by this process, and those across the Network.
Information and support

The Network will ensure you have access to information and support over the coming months and its resources will be available to assist you, including confidential advice and support. Lisa Hogan, Regional Nurse Manager Metropolitan West, will be your first point of contact to answer any questions you may have following yesterday’s announcement. Lisa can be contacted via phone on 0419 910 202 or 9700 2135; or pager 9937 2506. Questions can also be sent to hr@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au and a response will be provided to you as soon as possible.

I encourage you to use the Network’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if you require any additional support. EAP services can be contacted on 1300 361 008 or online via the following link: https://www.livewell.optum.com/public/welcome.asp. Once at the welcome page, please use the access code Justice, to enter the site.

Your options

In accordance with NSW Health policy directive PD2012_021 Managing Excess Staff of the NSW Health Service, I am advising you that you are an affected staff member. A copy of the full policy is available at: http://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2012_021.pdf

To assist staff in the early identification of opportunities within the Network and avoidance of declaring employees excess, the Network will work with you to find the same job you are currently performing at another centre within reasonable distance from Parklea Correctional Centre. As an affected staff member you are also eligible for priority consideration for vacancies across NSW Health. If you are seeking positions in other NSW Health services, you are expected to actively participate in identifying those opportunities. There may also be opportunities to seek employment with the new private provider. The Network will explore these options as a matter of priority once the new provider is appointed.

What will happen next

As part of the communication process, the Network will organise additional meetings with affected staff at the Centre, to provide you with further information and answer any questions you may have regarding these processes.

Again I acknowledge the uncertainty this process creates for you, your colleagues and your family and emphasise my commitment to supporting all affected staff and the entire Network throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

Gary Forrest
Chief Executive
28 February 2018