

TCH says Yes (to the wrong deal)

Dear Member,

As workers under the Support Services Enterprise Agreement fight for a better wage offer, Food Services management says yes to a major project that has massive implications on worker safety. Changes decided upon last year mean potential asbestos exposure, the loss of a staff room and implications for worker safety in the performance of tasks.

Lack of consultation is an ongoing theme at The Canberra Hospital. It creates a toxic workplace, lack of trust and demonstrates an inability to understand the work done by those on the ground.

Your union official and delegates were recently invited to attend a consultation meeting for a new dishwasher system for Food Services. Schedules were moved and time was made available to ensure members were represented. This is typical of ACT Health's last-minute model of dealing with workplace change.

HSU Intervention

- * Management states workers were consulted with in October 2017. This is incorrect.
OUTCOME: Workers will now be consulted with.
- * Management has outlined a number of 'staff benefits' for the changes. This is incorrect.
OUTCOME: Key activists and your union delegates will address the benefits for the change, as well as the negative impact.
- * The HSU has made it clear that losing a staff tea room is not an acceptable option. Suggestions that workers go to the Staff Cafeteria on Level 3 have been posed before, with no success due to this area being used by patients, as well as the inability to house that many employees.
- * There are many benefits from change, but not if workers' needs aren't taken into account.
OUTCOME: Information on who your key contact is will be forthcoming. This is your last opportunity to share your suggestions on the matter.
- * Date for Project Approval
OUTCOME: ACT Health requested a response on the project by 30 May 2018. The HSU made it clear union members would not accept this deadline. Management have heard our concerns and requested that ACT Health extend the timeframes in order to ensure workers' concerns are heard.

Union officials will be on site on 7 June 2018 to talk to workers about their concerns. Prior to this, union members need to think of issues that may arise as a result of this major change. Union members are also encouraged to start thinking of potential solutions to the concerns raised. This is your workplace and it's time you had a say.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD