

## Protest: University of Canberra Hospital 9am 16 June 2018

Dear Member,

The HSU and other unions have been meeting with ACT Health for the past three months about the establishment of the new University of Canberra Hospital (UCH).

While these discussions have been in relation to the transfer of staff and models of care, as outlined in previous newsletters, they have also been about the contracting out of ward services, cleaning, security and food services.

This contracting out occurred without any consultation with any employee or their relevant union and this has been the subject of extensive discussions with ACT Health and Minister for Health.

The HSU has called upon the Minister for Health to return these employees to direct public sector employment, in accordance with Government policy, and in the meantime to pay ACT public sector wages and conditions.

At this stage the Minister has not responded, despite repeated requests.

In addition to this the Contractor, Compass Medirest, has filed an enterprise agreement in the Fair Work Commission which seeks to cover all of the contracted workers at UCH but has only been voted on by their catering employees at Calvary Bruce Public Hospital. Medirest claim that this is legal but the HSU and United Voicer have put to both Medirest and the Minister that it is not ethical. Further, the rates under this Agreement are little more than the Modern Award, around \$19 per hour as opposed to \$25 per hour paid for workers at TCH. The HSU and United Voice have called upon Medirest to withdraw this Agreement and to negotiate an agreement with wages and conditions on par with the ACT public sector. Medirest has refused this request.

As a result of the Minister's failure to respond and Medirest pursuing a sub-standard agreement the health unions have called a snap protest for the opening of UCH on **Saturday 16 June at 9am (Cnr Ginninderra and Aikman Drive)**.

All members are encouraged to come along to protest for direct public sector employment and public sector wages and conditions for workers at UCH. If you have any questions, please call HSU Organiser Sarah Gleeson on 0437 145 778.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT