

Update: University of Canberra Hospital

Dear Member,

Thank you to all those members who responded to the HSU notification of the protest at the University of Canberra Hospital on Saturday 16 June.

It was heart-warming to see the solidarity of our members from The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Bruce Public Hospital offer their support to the workers at UCH, who have been employed by contractors on wages and conditions well below that of the public sector.

The reason why this issue is so important is because it is not just about the workers at UCH; instead, it is the principle of standing up against the contracting out of public sector jobs and protecting our members.

As a result of all of our efforts I am pleased to announce that the ACT Minister for Health, Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, has at last agreed to:

1. A direct financial contribution by the ACT Government to bring the wages for the workers at UCH up to and in line with 'community expectations';
2. Review the contracting arrangements, including that of direct employment.

Attached is the letter from Ms Fitzharris.

In addition, Compass Medirest has agreed that the Enterprise Agreement that they had filed in the Fair Work Commission, prior to the employment of staff at UCH, will not apply to UCH and they will negotiate a UCH specific Enterprise Agreement with the HSU and other relevant unions.

This is a significant outcome and demonstrates once again what can be achieved when we **Stand up and Fight Back!**

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT

Meegan Fitzharris MLA



Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Transport and City Services
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Ms Lyndal Ryan
ACT Branch Secretary
United Voice Union
Lyndal.Ryan@unitedvoice.org.au

Dear Ms Ryan

I am writing following your discussions with Ms Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General, Corporate, ACT Health, about the proposed Compass Group Medirest Enterprise Agreement and its application to the support services staff at the University of Canberra Hospital (UCH).

I directed ACT Health to write to Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions (BGIS) to state the expectations of the ACT Government in regards to a new Medirest agreement being reached, in consultation with relevant unions. This letter was sent to BGIS earlier this week and I am pleased to hear that negotiations with BGIS are progressing well.

In relation to wages for the employees that will be covered by a Medirest agreement, the ACT Government will actively work with BGIS to improve wages under the Medirest contract. The Government commits to a direct financial contribution, to the extent necessary through negotiation with BGIS, up to and in line with community expectations.

Over the next few months we will be reviewing the current contract arrangements including that of direct employment, and Unions will be included in these considerations.

I remain committed to working closely alongside ACT Health and unions to resolve these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Fitzharris".

Meegan Fitzharris MLA
15 June 2018

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