

ACT Health apply to terminate/suspend Ward Services industrial action

Dear Member,

On Wednesday 4 July, late in the afternoon, ACT Health made an application to the Fair Work Commission to terminate/suspend the industrial action of Ward Services planned for Friday 6 July and Wednesday 11 July.

They did this under s424 of the Fair Work Act which enables industrial action to be terminated if life is endangered or the economy significantly impacted.

As their main concern was the critical role that Ward Services has in responding to codes, particularly code blacks, the HSU filed evidence that showed that we had attempted on multiple occasions to discuss arrangements for managing codes and ACT Health had not even bothered to respond. In fact, the only communication we received was an email advising the arrangement for handing in pagers during periods of industrial action.

His Honour, Deputy President Kovacic, conciliated the matter, rather than proceeding into a hearing. This process took almost three hours, with the outcome an agreement that the HSU would cancel its planned industrial action for Friday 6 July and Wednesday 11 July and ACT Health would withdraw its application to terminate/suspend industrial action, on the basis that his Honour would facilitate further discussions. These discussions would be in relation to the bargaining issues between the parties, e.g. the wage offer and the proposed dilution of the rostering provision.

His Honour convened conferences with the parties on Friday 6 July and Wednesday 11 July. Representatives will attend these conferences and report back to members.

If you have any questions you can contact HSU Industrial Officer, Julie Gordon on julie.gordon@hsu.asn.au.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD