

The Canberra Hospital: Things are changing for the better

Dear Member,

Please see below a brief summary of positive changes achieved by the actions of HSU members standing together. Congratulations!

WARE WASHER PROJECT

The HSU has been holding weekly meetings with management from Food Services, your delegates and key representatives to discuss the Ware Washer project. At the initial meeting we discovered your employer planned to install a new Ware Washer in the area currently occupied by Dry Stores. This was arrived at in consultation with previous management, but even union delegates had no idea about the changes taking place.

The plan involved moving Dry Stores to the staff room, leaving workers left without a space. The HSU has held a strong position on access to appropriate amenities and ensured this position was asserted during ongoing negotiations. Since this time the following has been decided upon:

- The Ware Washer project will go ahead and will be moved to the Dry Stores area.
 - This addresses the Not Met for accreditation. It fixes Workplace Health and Safety issues, i.e. poor plumbing and issues with water flow.
- A temporary facility will be built to accommodate Dry Stores.
 - Consultants have worked with the Executive and Deputy Director-General to find a more suitable option than the Food Services staff room.
 - ACT Health has worked with other departments to secure two car spaces for the temporary relocation of Dry Stores. Timeframes are estimated at three months.
 - A garage-style building will be placed near the current loading dock.
 - Delegates raised concerns about the temperature due to the garage being built outdoors. Consultants noted no heat requirements within the Food Standards but agreed to install a split system heater so that workers are not left in the cold.

Ongoing contact with union delegates and key representatives has kept the project on task. More importantly, members maintaining a strong position on the potential loss of their staff room demonstrates the power of sticking together and presenting a united voice on workplace change.

SHOES

As part of negotiations for your Enterprise Agreement, the HSU is requesting shoes be included for Food Services. As a consequence, your employer put a hold on reimbursement for shoes until this matter is resolved through the negotiation process. The implications are that workers who need shoes are unable to buy them from an ACT

Health supported provider, or obtain the money spent if they buy their own. The HSU has written to your employer requesting the hold on reimbursing for shoes is removed until the matter is formally resolved through appropriate consultation with the HSU. Once we have a response we will notify members of the outcome.

It is by standing together that we create change. If you're a member and know someone who is yet to join, ask them to jump on board and create a more transparent workplace. They can do so by visiting www.hsu.asn.au/join or by calling the union on 1300 478 679.

Those wishing to take on a more active role are encouraged to think about the role of union delegate within the various teams. Current delegates have information on the proposed structure, agreed to earlier in the year.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a long, sweeping underline.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD