

## **HSU Win at HKH: Conversion of Aged Care Liaison Nurse to 2x Social Work positions**

Dear Member,

Until recent consultation between Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital Management and the HSU, HKH had employed an Aged Care Liaison Nurse to facilitate discharges to Residential Aged Care facilities.

The skill set and duties of this position very clearly aligned with those of Social Work, rather than Nursing, and would ensure ongoing comprehensive and efficient care of patients and their families.

The HSU is pleased to report that the funding for this Nursing position will now be reallocated to Social Work. The Nursing position will be deleted, with the support of NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, and converted to two 0.7 FTE Level 1/2 Social Work positions, which will augment the HKH Social Work Department and improve its capacity to operate this service seven days a week.

This change will ensure continuity of care to the community and ensure appropriate, safe and timely patient discharges. Residential Aged Care placements frequently pose significant challenges for many families in negotiating this increasingly complex and bureaucratic sector.

This is a notable win for HSU HKH Allied Health members in that HKH Management's position very strongly aligned with the HSU's position that the specialist contributions of Social Workers to this complex aspect of aged care be recognised and upheld by this conversion. Furthermore, additional staffing for the Social Work Department will benefit all Social Work Department members and enhance their ability to deliver a high-quality service across all clinical areas. All parties strongly held the view that this role cannot and should not be performed by nursing or any other profession.

If you have any comments on this change or any other similar inappropriate designation of allied health duties, please contact Brendan Rogers, HSU NSLHD Organiser, [Brendan.Roberts@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Brendan.Roberts@hsu.asn.au) or Denise O'Shaughnessy, HSU Health Professional Organiser, [Denise.OShaughnessy@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Denise.OShaughnessy@hsu.asn.au).

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD