

## Port Macquarie Base Hospital Radio Communication Update

Dear Member,

The HSU has received correspondence from Port Macquarie Base Hospital regarding an upgrade to radio communications within the facility's theatre complex. The risk was around the ineffective and dangerous communication network which potentially compromised our members' and patients' safety.

Following members endorsement to instigate industrial bans, the PMBH has met with the HSU and as a result, have provided the attached correspondence outlining that urgent assessment and installation of a new upgraded system is to be undertaken. The correspondence also outlines that current temporary measures are to remain to minimise risk to members and patients.

The HSU congratulates members on standing firm on this issue and calls for further vigilance and to report any ongoing concerns accordingly.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



**CONFIDENTIAL**

27 November 2018

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union NSW & ACT Branch  
Locked Bag 3  
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Via Email: [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Mr Hayes,

**Digital Communication Strategies at Port Macquarie Base Hospital (PMBH)**

I am writing following a meeting held on 20 November 2018 between representatives of the HSU and Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD) to discuss digital communication strategies at PMBH, specifically within the Operating Theatres.

As noted at the meeting, the clinical management team had already prepared a business case which was in the process of approval from a technical and financial basis, the result of which is that there is agreement in principle for PMBH to progress with a digital radio strategy for the site.

Further testing will need to be undertaken to ensure the proposed strategy will meet operating requirements. Testing/design works will be prioritised for the operating theatre areas initially, so that purchase orders for equipment can be raised as soon as possible. These areas are likely to present the biggest challenges with lead shielding and thick walls.

External specialist contractors will be engaged to undertake this work and we have asked for a commitment to complete the task ideally prior to Christmas with a report on the findings by early January, 2019. An update and timeline for implementation will be provided to the staff working in the areas once more information is available from the contractor.

It is proposed to further discuss Operating Assistant allocation to specific areas, use of DECT phones and any other initiatives raised by the team that may assist during the interim period.

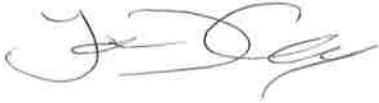
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ABN 57 946 356 658

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PO Box 2466 PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444  
Tel 02 5524 2100 Fax 02 5524 2103  
Website <http://mnclhd.health.nsw.gov.au/>

The MNCLHD looks forward to working closely with the HSU, management and staff to support this improvement in services for our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office on 5524 2100 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Evans', written in a cursive style.

Jane Evans  
**General Manager Port Macquarie Base Hospital**  
**Hastings Macleay Clinical Network Coordinator**

Cc Mr Michael Kearns