

## Gosford Hospital Patient Enquiries Update

Dear Member,

*Why aren't CCLHD installing a perspex screen to ensure staff are safe at work?*

*This is a no-brainer, I can't believe we need to fight so hard for basic safety at work.*

*I wouldn't want to work at Patient Enquiries without any protection.*

*It appears the District is not going to anything until a serious incident occurs or someone is injured.*

These are some of the statements we have been hearing repeatedly while talking to staff at Gosford Hospital regarding the installation of a perspex screen at the Patient Enquiries department. We agree with all these statements and can't believe we need to go to extraordinary efforts just for basic safety measures to be installed. However your employer, Central Coast LHD, disputes the need for such basic protections.

In our [last newsletter](#), we mentioned there was an interim arrangement in place. We also started a petition to the Chief Executive Andrew Montague – with over 160 people signing yesterday alone.

Unfortunately, since then the HSU has been advised this interim arrangement will cease after Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, and the additional staff being rostered on will cease. This is despite the fact that Central Coast Local Health District has failed to follow through on their previous commitments including the following:

1. Relocate the duress button to an easier location to access in an Emergency – still waiting on advice some 2 weeks later
2. Improved lighting at night – still waiting on advice some 2 weeks later
3. Quote for jump wire – still waiting on advice some 2 weeks later
4. IIMS reporting training – while this has commenced, it's not expected to be completed for another 2 weeks.

This is all despite the Chief Executive's claim that 'staff safety and wellbeing is paramount to Central Coast Local Health District'.

We can no longer stand by and do nothing and wait until a serious incident occurs. It's now time to stand up and hold your employer to account and demand they back their words with actions install a perspex screen.

To further show your support for staff within Patient Enquiries, all Gosford Hospital members are invited to an urgent HSU meeting, details below:

**When:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Where:** Seminar Room 1, Conference Centre, Gosford Hospital

**Time:** 11am

You will receive an SMS both today and on Friday morning. We encourage you to attend and spread the word throughout your Department.

At this meeting we will be endorsing an action plan to escalate our concerns including action available to us within the *Work Health & Safety Act* as well as further media actions.

In unity,

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

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD