

HNELHD: John Hunter Security Concerns

Dear Member,

The HSU has issued formal correspondence to the HNELHD and HealthShare, outlining longstanding and ongoing concerns relating to security services within the John Hunter Hospital and in particular the Emergency Department. The HSU has been contacted by members on numerous occasions regarding the ongoing utilisation of Hospital and Security Assistants (HASAs) primarily as patient porters despite Award changes and consequently, the utilisation of security officers from the main campus into the Emergency Department.

The HSU also reminded management that previous discussions in which the HSU, in good faith, proposed significant increases in HASA and Security Officer resources to future-proof the protection of people and property in the ED, were dismissed by the HNELHD due to an internal review of security services. These negotiations were separate to the ongoing Security USCC forum.

The HSU urges members to read the attached correspondence. Meetings will be held with members of both the JHH General Sub Branch as well as the Greater Newcastle Sector Security Officers Sub Branch when formal responses are received from the management. The HNELHD has indicated that a response will be forthcoming in the next week.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

Mr Michael Di Rienzo
Chief Executive Officer
HNELHD
Lookout Rd
New Lambton NSW 2305

GH:LR:VK/A044390
21st January, 2019

Dear Mr Di Rienzo,

The HSU has had prolonged discussion with HNELHD around staffing levels of Security Officers and Health and Security Assistants (HSA's) in the Greater Newcastle Sector.

The HSU holds grave concerns that our members, particularly at the John Hunter Hospital, are significantly under resourced, have increased incidents of violence and are expected to deal with aggressive persons who present to the Emergency Department, where the HSA's are continually being misused.

Managers in the ED use the HSA's as patient porters exclusively, which, completely negates the variation to the award made in December 2017.

Further this management practice contradicts the "Code Black Response Strategy" implemented by management without genuine consultation some considerable time ago following the introduction of the HSA's.

Numerous attempts have been made by the HSU Security Officers Sub-branch to discuss these important issues, to date these negotiations have proved fruitless.

The HSU has recently provided, in good faith, a proposal to HNELHD to amend the resources for security at the John Hunter Hospital particularly in the ED, only to be informed that these discussions have been shut down by the LHD.

In light of this the HSU has no alternative but to seek assistance in the NSW Industrial Relation Commission regarding the issues outlined in this correspondence in particular the inadequate staffing levels in Security and the misuse of HSA's across the sector

Yours Sincerely,



GERARD HAYES
SECRETARY HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



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