

Northern NSW LHD: Community Health Review

Dear Member,

Throughout 2018, the Northern NSW LHD had been undertaking a Review of Community Health. So far it has been a frustrating process, with the HSU constantly having to remind the LHD of their obligations to consult with our members as set out in the Award.

Disappointingly, the LHD has now 'shelved' the Review, pending the Ministry of Health finalising 'key policy and framework documents'.

This means that it will only now be finalised after the March 23 election!

This is not acceptable. We need the LHD to release the draft review as it stands now. The work HSU allied health members perform is far too important for the LHD to keep its machinations behind closed doors. This review is causing our members anxiety and anticipation, and they deserve to know the findings so far.

We all know that projections show the majority of the Northern Rivers population will be aged between 50 and 90 years of age by 2027. Given the North Rivers' population profile, and the fact that our health needs become more complex as the population gets older, we need extra allied health professionals to meet demand.

Furthermore, by providing more services in a community health setting, allied health professionals help to free up beds in local hospitals.

The cost of employing extra allied health workers is far less than the cost of filling up hospital wards with people who could be receiving care in the home.

The HSU will be raising the lack of information about the Community Health Review at the District Joint Consultative Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13 March. We will keep members informed of any further developments.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD