

Maitland Hospital Security Concerns

Dear Member,

The HSU has been campaigning for some time for an increase of security staff at Maitland Hospital. We've been asking since November last year for an increase in staffing numbers to help maintain the safety and security of the hospital. Meanwhile, the LHD has embarked on a review of not just security numbers but as well as policies and procedures. This project is expected to be run until the end of April.

Unfortunately, experience doesn't bode well for the outcome of the review. Our requests for additional staff have been dismissed time and time again, by local management right up to the district executive level. The HSU recently asked for a temporary increase while the review is underway, but once again this was refused.

Members have now taken the courageous step to unanimously vote for the following:

1. That all HSU members will work strictly according to policies and procedures set out by Maitland Hospital and the Ministry of Health, as below.
2. A ratio of two qualified security staff on hand to guard one patient.
3. When more than one patient requires guarding, management need to call in additional qualified security staff to guard that patient as per the ratio above. If no staff are available, a decision needs to be made by a clinician as to which patient is the priority.
4. No HSU member will take part in a 'take down' unless there are five PMVA trained staff members present and willing to assist. (HSU members will intervene if there is an immediate threat to a person's safety, and if the member feels it is safe to act)
5. No HSU member will be undertaking an escort from one hospital to the next.

This is not about HSA members shirking their duties, it's about ensuring there are enough qualified security staff present to safely perform their role. At the moment, there are no more than three on shift at most. HSAs take their role seriously with pride and dedication to keep not only themselves safe but also other staff, patients and visitors.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your local HSU organiser Matthew Ramsay on 0419 553 105 or matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD