

Gosford Hospital Parking Update

Dear Member,

It was great to see so many Union members and health workers attend the mass meeting yesterday on the issue of parking fees at Gosford Hospital. The attached resolution was passed, demanding Central Coast LHD show leadership and stand up for health workers and the Central Coast community.

Following our meeting, CCLHD blinked and showed they are beginning to waver under the pressure of our campaign. They have issued the attached memo to all staff granting a 2-week extension of the free Showground Rd offsite parking and shuttle bus service.

While this compromise is solely due to the actions of union members, we should not be lulled into a false sense of security. Instead, let's increase our efforts over the next few weeks until CCLHD fully commit to the free Showground Rd offsite parking and shuttle service remaining indefinitely.

The disappointing fact is that CCLHD are hiding behind an unfair policy that fails to consider the needs of Central Coast staff and community and still insist they can do nothing about the fees.

However, a number of questions remain:

Why can Gosford Private Hospital provide free parking for their staff?

Why can Gosford Private Hospital cap their visitor fee at \$2 per hour to maximum of \$12 per day?

Why should staff and the community pay a loan for a carpark was government funded?

Are staff and visitor fees contributing to the [almost \\$2 million](#) Central Coast LHD will pay to Secure, the private operator, over 5 years (Oct 17-Oct 22) for goods and services? Imagine if that money was spent on employing more staff to improve patient care or provide more services to patients.

Let's celebrate this small win, but keep the pressure on CCLHD to show leadership and stand up for health workers and the community.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



Gosford Hospital General Sub Branch

Resolution:

This meeting of the HSU General Sub Branch of Gosford Hospital held, Tuesday 26th March 2019 at Gosford Hospital notes and resolves the following:

1. The sub branch notes the correspondence from the Central Coast Local Health District Chief Executive on Wednesday 20th March in response to HSU's letter dated 15th March. This reply is unsatisfactory and shows no understanding of our concerns or issues and fails to stand up for Health Workers and the Central Coast Community but rather chooses to blame shift by hiding behind an unfair and unreasonable policy that doesn't consider the needs of the Central Coast staff and community.
2. We will not accept our employer forcing staff to pay an extra 67% or \$512 per year in parking fees to simply subsidise the cost of repaying a loan used to build the new carpark. These increases amount to a pay cut for Health Workers.
3. We endorse to continue our campaign against our employer, Central Coast Local Health District's, decision to introduce huge and over inflated parking fees for both Staff and Visitors of Gosford Hospital
4. We reiterate and demand the Chief Executive and Board agree to the below:
 - a. To continue the Showground Rd off site and shuttle bus service beyond 29th March or a suitable free alternative.
 - b. Guarantee the current staff parking fees will not increase beyond the current fee of \$13.92 indefinitely, noting Gosford Private Hospital do not charge their staff for parking onsite.
 - c. Negotiate a fairer and more reasonable fee structure for visitors, noting Gosford Private Hospital visitors' fees are only \$2 per hour up to a maximum of \$12 per day. It's immoral to charge exorbitant fees for visitors to park to visit their loved ones. Central Coast Local Health District should be ashamed.
5. Unless all 3 of the above are agreed by 5pm Thursday 28th March we will hold a further Sub Branch meeting where a full range of options will be discussed

6. Further as the new carpark is operated by a Private firm in Secure we endorse that No Central Coast Local Health District employee undertake any cleaning or maintenance duties associated with the carpark.

Moved: Leanne Snow

Second: Gary Whelton



Memo

Office of the Chief Executive
Trim: CD19/24509

TO All CCLHD

FROM Dr Andrew Montague, Chief Executive

TEL 4320 5353

SUBJECT Gosford Hospital parking update

Dear colleagues

Parking across all of our hospital sites has always been a hot topic both with staff and the community. As our region and health services grow so too does the demand for parking. Additional parking is a critical component of both Wyong and Gosford Hospital redevelopments as we aim to alleviate parking pressures for our staff, patients and visitors.

In 2013, changes were made to the way hospital car park developments are funded. These changes also set out the parking fees that must be charged. Following completion of the new P2 car park at Gosford Hospital we are now required to implement this policy for parking at Gosford Hospital.

While the District is not able to change the parking fees, we have endeavoured to make as much parking available to staff as possible balanced against the need for patients and visitors to also have easy access to parking.

As outlined in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the intranet, 396 spaces are progressively being allocated to staff in the new P2 car park and daily usage is being monitored to help determine if additional staff parking allocations can be made. This has meant that we have been able to significantly reduce the waiting list for staff parking.

We have listened to your feedback in regards to equitable access to parking for staff on evening or night shifts as well as considerations for casual staff and are working through solutions. Some of these have already been updated in the FAQs.

If you have a question about parking I would encourage you to read the FAQs on the intranet first and if your question is not answered send an email to cclhd-carparking@health.nsw.gov.au

While I understand the benefit that the Showground Road car park and shuttle bus have provided to staff during the redevelopment, this parking arrangement was only ever funded as a temporary solution to free up parking close to the hospital for patients and visitors during construction, and provide staff with an alternate parking option. We have been able to extend our current arrangements for the Showground Road car park and shuttle bus for a further two weeks while we continue to monitor and review usage of onsite parking and adjust to the changes. The Showground Road car park and shuttle bus will now cease operating at 11pm Friday 12 April.



Memo

Ensuring staff safety is a high priority for the District and I would like to remind you that security are available to escort you to your vehicle if you work at either Gosford or Wyong Hospital. Staff located at our other facilities are encouraged to park close to the front entry of the facility after hours and call triple zero if there is an immediate safety concern.

I hope that the above information provides a bit more clarity regarding the changes to parking at Gosford Hospital and we will continue to update you as we work through issues raised.

Kind regards

Dr Andrew Montague MBBS, FRACGP, MHA, FRACMA

Date: 26/3/19