

## **SLHD: Proposed outsourcing of medication supervision to NGO**

Dear Member,

The HSU been alerted by members that SLHD is proposing to outsource the supervision of psychotropic medication to Mission Australia support workers. Mental health clinicians currently visit the most at risk and vulnerable clients, who are often non adherent to their medication regimes and are subject to community treatment orders. Regular monitoring by health professionals ensures regular risk and clinical assessments to ensure treatment is escalated for those clients, who are exhibiting signs and symptoms of deteriorating health.

The main concerns of allied health workers are that this change will see a reduction in patient care, and that liability will fall on case managers when a negative incident occurs. Outsourcing this duty to support workers, whose roles are to provide transport and social support to clients, places clients at risk. Should there be an adverse outcome for a client, who will take responsibility? The support worker, the mental health clinician/case manager, the psychiatrist? It appears there is no policy or guideline for clinicians.

SLHD has not consulted about this extraordinary change in care.

If you hold concerns about this proposal or that nursing duties were assigned to allied health staff in the first place, please send your comments by Wednesday 10th April 2019 to HSU Health Professional Organiser, Denise O'Shaughnessy at [Denise.OShaughnessy@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Denise.OShaughnessy@hsu.asn.au).

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD