

RPAH: Environmental Services members allege bullying & harassment culture

Dear Member,

Yesterday, nearly 40 cleaners met at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) to discuss concerns of a bullying and harassment culture within the department.

Many members courageously shared examples of the treatment and behaviours they have been subjected to or witnessed happening to their colleagues. What we heard was awful. No one should be subject to bullying in the workplace. After all, Sydney LHD are meant to have policy of 'zero tolerance' to bullying and harassment.

The sorts of behaviours included:

- Being shouted at
- Being called a liar
- Being told to put on some glasses when working as 'you must be blind'
- Being told that their work will be inspected at any time, twice a week
- Being yelled at in front of patients and families
- Having annual leave applications rejected, told to see the manager and then having the door closed in their face
- Being on weekend shift for years, then abruptly told after illness told that they can no longer do it
- Bringing letter from GP stating they are fit for work, then being told they have to see staff doctor for a second opinion
- Overtime being allocated to non-union cleaners only

As a result of the way some cleaners have been treated by some supervisors and/or leading hands, cleaners have expressed that they are feeling:

- Stressed
- Tearful
- Shaky and upset
- Scared to come to work
- Fearful of making a complaint as their areas or rosters could be changed

At the conclusion of the meeting, every cleaner made a commitment to themselves and all their fellow Union members and passed the below resolution:

"No HSU union member in Environmental Services is to go into a meeting with management without a support person".

Management have now reluctantly agreed to meet with the Union and the RPAH Sub Branch Executive to deal with these matters. However, we suspect this is only the tip of the iceberg.

If you know of or have been subject to bullying and harassment, we need to hear from you. Every single member of our Union deserves to be treated with dignity and respect in the workplace and we will fight until this is the case.

You can contact us either by calling the HSU Member Services Division on 1300 478 679 or by writing to A/Deputy Manager Public Health, Brendan Roberts via email brendan.roberts@hsu.asn.au.

We must now unite and support each other as together we are strong. If any of your colleagues are have not already joined our Union, please encourage them to so do by completing the attached membership form or joining online at www.hsu.asn.au.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a long, sweeping underline.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD