

## Morisset Hospital Risk Assessment

Dear Member,

Following the risk assessments conducted by management relating to excessive heat in the Willaroo Pantry and Lorikeet Lodge, the HSU have been provided with the recommendations (in italics below).

### SITUATION

*Concerns with potential high temperatures/lack of air conditioning within the pantry/dining area of Willaroo and the offices along the northern wall of Lorikeet.*

### BACKGROUND

*The Willaroo pantry is used as a food preparation for approximately 3-4 hours per day and also as a food product storage area. Prepared food is then collected from the pantry in vehicles and transported to various other areas on the campus. A hazard report (attached) was submitted by HealthShare NSW (HSNSW) staff relating to heat issues when preparing food in the Willaroo pantry. A record of temperatures was attached (recorded from thermometer inside the pantry). Concerns focussed on the wellbeing of staff working in this area and food safety during the preparation of food containing eggs, dairy etc in a hot work environment. Upon attending this work area for review and assessment, it was noted to be significantly warmer than the outside temperature which was approximately 15 degrees. It was noted there is no air conditioning in the pantry and HSNSW staff indicated that they attempt to keep the wooden door to the kitchen open with the screen door providing protection, however the screen is frequently damaged by kangaroos and cannot subsequently be kept open for risk of insects entering a food preparation area. Fans are also unable to be used within a food preparation area and there is little natural air flow with only one extraction hood above the oven working, having limited effect on the overall temperature.*

*It is noted that there is an air-conditioned area within Willaroo that all staff can access during break time however HSNSW staff prefer to use the dining room adjacent to the pantry for their breaks as they indicated the other room is quite busy. The dining room is also not air conditioned. Advice was also received at the time of the assessment that the dining room is to be refurbished and due to the likely presence of asbestos and the configuration of the pantry/dining room, it would be unlikely that the pantry could be utilised as a food preparation area while the refurbishment of the dining room occurs.*

*The offices along the northern wall of Lorikeet are exposed to direct sunlight through most daylight hours and it is likely that the temperatures would be high when the outside temperature is high as air conditioning is not available in every office. It is noted that block out blinds have been ordered for the offices on the northern side of the building. It is also noted that the tearoom is air-conditioned and on the southern side of the building, providing an option for refuge for staff if required. It is also noted that the requirements of the roles of staff who utilise these offices, necessitates them to frequently attend to work in other areas on the campus and spending significant times within the office environment is not a regular occurrence.*

*Matthew Ramsey, HSU attended the risk assessment and a request was made for him to discuss and agree on multiple options/suggestions with members for addressing the heat issues moving forward as this will assist with finding a suitable intervention. Matthew kindly agreed that he would assist moving forward.*

#### **ASSESSMENT**

*The heat within the Willaroo pantry is a potential hazard particularly on hot days from a staff safety perspective and could also contribute to potential food safety issues. The refurbishment of the dining room should be taken into account when potential solutions are tabled as it is unlikely that the pantry could be used as a food preparation area whilst these works are occurring.*

*The installation of block out blinds would be sufficient intervention for the Lorikeet offices at present.*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Agree on potential options for addressing the heat issue in Willaroo Pantry (given the works to occur in the dining room, consideration may need be given to re-locating however this should be confirmed with the engineers).
  - Short term options may include consideration of fitting crim-safe style covering to the windows and screen door to allow the pantry to be left locked but open overnight.*
- 2. Install block out blinds in Lorikeet offices and review adequacy for reducing heat during summer months.*
- 3. Confirm again with staff that air conditioned common areas are available for use by all staff.*

As you can see, management have made no direct recommendation to install air conditioning in these areas. They are considering relocating the Willaroo Pantry to another location on site, but the exact location is unknown. With regard to Lorikeet Lodge, management think that block out blinds will be sufficient. The HSU is therefore seeking urgent feedback from members, especially who work in these areas, prior to meeting with management. At this stage management have proposed to meet early next week, but no date has been set as yet.

Please send your feedback to your HSU organiser Matt Ramsay via email [matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au](mailto:matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au).

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD