

Fairfield Hospital gets a focus on Workplace Health and Safety

Dear Member,

Union members at Fairfield Hospital have expressed ongoing concerns in relation to Workplace Health and Safety. Previous attempts to facilitate conversations have failed, with the employer stating the existing system of Workplace Health and Safety Officers is adequate. Members disagreed and, with support from the union office, facilitated the process of having Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) nominated. HSRs have enormous power under the Workplace Health and Safety Act, which is why many employers opt for workers to be placed in the role of Officer, rather than Representative.

The initial focus is on HSRs within the Security Department, and most workers have signed a petition stating they require two HSRs to provide support to workers within their team. We have had nominations for the role. If you are working in the Security Department and wish to nominate, please contact your HSU Organiser Sarah Gleeson. Those who have already nominated themselves or others do not need to resend their existing nominations. Nominations should be sent by close of business Thursday 6 June 2019 via email sarah.gleeson@hsu.asn.au.

What about other departments?

Sadly, there are other health and safety issues prevalent at Fairfield Hospital, namely bullying and harassment. Your key representatives and union officials have been approached by a number of employees who have experienced inappropriate conduct in the workplace. Your key representative, Edalina Hondros, has material that can help members document their experiences with inappropriate conduct.

Workplace bullying is not an individual issue, it affects us all. Workplace bullying is a safety matter that affects a worker's physical and mental wellbeing, but there are tools to help you document and deal with inappropriate conduct at work. It is only by sticking together and supporting each other that we can address a toxic workplace culture and create change from the bottom up.

If you know someone who isn't yet a member of the HSU, encourage them to join and help make our union stronger. Our strength in numbers allows us to achieve outcomes that might have seemed impossible on your own. New members can join by visiting our website at www.hsu.asn.au or calling the union on 1300 HSU NSW.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD