

PMBH Cease Work Activity Update

Dear Member,

The HSU has received correspondence from Port Macquarie Base Hospital management regarding the cease work activity undertaken by members across the site. As a result of members taking action to minimise risk of assault or injury due to unsafe communication systems, management have now started to take this issue seriously and are inviting the HSU to participate in consultation around improving working conditions for members.

The HSU will be providing a response to the attached correspondence and will be calling for representatives from the membership to participate in the consultation process. This is the start to improving working conditions at the PMBH and the HSU reminds members to maintain vigilance until this issue is resolved.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



Health

Mid North Coast
Local Health District

Office of the General Manager

CONFIDENTIAL

3 June 2019

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW
Locked Bag 3
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Via Email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

The Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD) is supportive and encourages a consultative approach to issues and disputes resolution. To this end staff consultative committees have been established, together with WH&S committees and specific working parties to manage local issues.

I am writing regarding the implementation of the Cease Work Action; under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW), relating to radio communications at Port Macquarie Base Hospital. MNCLHD invites the HSU to attend a meeting to discuss the matter and the staff communication (attached).

Please confirm your attendance within five working days from this letter by contacting my office on 5524 2100.

I look forward to liaising with you to confirm a convenient date.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jane Evans
General Manager
Port Macquarie Base Hospital
Co-ordinator Hastings Macleay Clinical Network

cc Michael Kearns - Organiser, HSU at michael.kearns@hsu.asn.au
Karen Wiles, HSU Sub-Branch President, Karen.Wiles@health.nsw.gov.au

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Staff Update - Radio Communications

We have been experiencing operational problems with our analogue two-way radio communication system across the site.

As we move toward upgrading the system from analogue to digital, we have undertaken a number of interim strategies to improve the functionality of the communication system including:

- Use of ASCOM system
- Additional mobile phones with linked speed dial
- Safe Work Practice developed in consultation with Work Health Safety team.

In January this year a trial was implemented to introduce to digital radios across the Operating Theatre suite and Operations Assistants are reporting improved communications.

We currently have external technicians on site who are investigating the placement of aerials to further boost functionality of the system.

The next stage of this project is to improve the capability of Health and Security Assistants' communications.

We are working towards resolving these issues and expect to receive a report before the end of June outlining proposed options required to improve the system.

Jane Evans
General Manager