

HNELHD: Reduction of Cancer Services

Dear Member,

The HSU has received correspondence from Hunter New England Local Health District that the State Government-funded Cancer Institute has removed funding from services across the State.

The attached correspondence outlines that workers' jobs will be terminated as a result of this funding cut. The HSU urges members to read the attached correspondence and to contact your Organiser via email with your concerns and feedback.

The HSU has already met with affected workers and will be meeting with them again this week.

Your Organisers are:

New England Sector, Cindy Paul – cindy.paul@hsu.asn.au

Hunter Sector, Matthew Ramsay – matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au

Greater Newcastle Sector & Lower Mid North Coast Sector, Michael Kearns – michael.kearns@hsu.asn.au

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

20 August 2019

Mr Gerard Hayes
General Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Michael Kearns – Organiser

Via email: michael.kearns@hsu.asn.au

Dear Sir,

Re: Service Reduction: HNELHD Cancer Services – Withdrawal of Funding by Cancer Institute NSW

I am writing to advise you that Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) was recently notified by the Cancer Institute of NSW (CINSW) that the block funding agreement between the parties for the 2020 financial year has been amended and will mean that HNELHD will see a significant reduction in funding from 2nd September 2019.

Funding cuts by CINSW has been applied across all NSW Local Health District's to varying extents but for HNELHD this funding reduction impacts the viability of the HNELHD Cancer Service and directly impacts a number of positions within this Service.

The positions impacted by this decision are 5 staff employed in the Cancer Data team who are employed on temporary exempt contracts, and the permanent positions of the Cancer Service Development Officer and the Executive Assistant.

Specifically, this means that for those staff who are exempt staff employed under the provisions of the Health Industry Status of Employment (State) Award due to the non-recurrent nature of funding; their employment contracts which were due to expire on 30 June 2020 will now be terminated under the provisions of *Clause 20 Termination of Employment* of Health Employees Conditions of Employment (State) Award and will be provided with one months' notice. During this time efforts will be made to support these staff in job seeking within HNELHD and externally to the organisation.

For the two permanent staff members affected by this reduction in service, they will be managed in accordance with the NSW Health *PD2012_021 Managing Excess Staff of the NSW Health Service*.

HNELHD management have met with the staff of the Cancer Service on Friday 15th and Monday 19th August 2019 to advise them of this information with the exception of one staff member who is currently on leave. It is anticipated that formal notification of this outcome will be provided to staff as soon as possible.

Staff have been reminded that they can contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if they require additional counselling and support at this time.

If you require clarification on this matter please do not hesitate to contact Lynn Hurst, Senior HR Consultant on (02) 4985 3449.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Nguyen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Nguyen
Director – Allied Health & Workforce