

Concord Hospital stands up to privatisation threat

Dear Member,

On Wednesday 16th October 2019, the Concord Hospital HSU Sub Branch held an extraordinary meeting to discuss Sydney Local Health District's notification that they intend to privatise/outsourcing Retail Food Services at the Hospital.

The overwhelming view amongst staff is that this is a very bad decision and will have a significant negative impact on staff, visitors and the wider community. The following resolution was unanimously passed at the meeting:

“The CRGH HSU Sub Branch opposes the privatisation/outsourcing of Retail Food Services at CRGH and calls on management to immediately halt the process to enable genuine consultation.”

The sub-branch meeting was particularly concerned about the treatment of long-term and loyal staff. The lack of care shown toward these staff during the process has been worse than insulting, and has caused significant stress and anxiety.

Further concerns include:

- The creation of this effective monopoly for a for-profit business is likely to result in price gouging and a reduction in quality ingredients.
- The process has completely lacked transparency. Staff have not been provided with sufficient information about the reason for the change (including reasons that the decision will ensure better value for money for staff and visitors); alternative options explored; the impacts of the change on staff, both directly and indirectly; or the business case, cost benefit analysis, and risk assessment.

Staff have a right to know what protections have been put in place to ensure value for money? What KPIs will be built in to the contract to ensure value for money and quality of the food? How long will the contract be for? How often will it be reviewed? What would constitute a breach of the contract?

Following a discussion of these serious concerns, the Sub Branch took the view that:

- *In addition* to the decision being reversed, the release of all relevant information and genuine consultation must occur.
- All impacted staff must be guaranteed suitable employment within the LHD.

- In the event that SLHD fails to reverse the decision and/or enter into genuine consultation, HSU members have committed to a campaign of action including workplace, media, community and political action.

Communication has been sent to SLHD, placing the issue into a formal dispute that requires the process go no farther until genuine consultation has been undertaken. We have provided the SLHD 5 working days to respond to our communication.

If you have any further concerns or feedback, please email luke.maroney@hsu.asn.au using the subject line *Concord Retail Food Services*.

Strong campaigns can't happen without strong union membership. Encourage your workmates to join online at www.hsu.asn.au/join or phone 1300 478 679.

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