

# Concord Hospital Retail Food Services Update

Dear Member,

Following the previous HSU communication, your HSU representatives met with Concord Hospital management today to discuss member concerns related to the privatisation of Retail Food Services.

The concerns raised include:

If Retail Food Services are not considered to be 'Core Business', are the jobs of other support services at risk?

What protections will be put in place to ensure a private operator will not seek to gouge prices or reduce food quality? Will staff still have access to facilities to prepare/warm and eat their own food?

What jobs will be available for directly impacted staff? When will jobs be found for existing staff? How will any re-training occur in the short time available? Timeframes appear to be unrealistic – shouldn't they be extended to allow for a less stressful and better supported process?

The issue of voluntary redundancies was raised (e.g. when will they become available for staff) and a strong concern was raised by HSU representatives that no staff should be forced into positions that they do not feel capable of performing.

Your HSU representatives also put forward that some casual staff have been employed for an extended period of time, and should in fact have been employed permanently.

Management confirmed the following:

- That other support services are considered core business.
- That no contract has been signed and some protections around access for staff (e.g. to prepare/warm their own food) and service delivery (e.g. maintaining the Thursday Markets) will be included in the EOI, but no protections in relation to prices have been built into the EOI as of yet.
- That the timeframes for the change can be extended if needed.
- That training for any new positions that staff are placed in can be done on the job and does not need to be done before being placed in a job.
- Following an HSU request, management have agreed to provide weekly updates on job placements, and a promise was provided that all staff will have their employment moving forward by the proposed close in December.

The members in attendance were relieved that their concerns had been raised and many of their questions answered. The main priority moving forward is that progress is made in

placing affected staff in jobs as soon as possible, so they are no longer in limbo along with all the stress and anxiety that comes with it.

It is also very important moving forward that all Concord Hospital HSU members are alert to any workplaces changes and notify their union representatives.

In any workplace change you have rights:

- You have the right to genuine consultation.
- You have the right to all relevant information, to be able to ask questions and have those questions answered.
- You have the right to raise issues, to have those issues given due consideration and responded to.
- You have the right to HSU representation!
- You have a right to a safe workplace.

Through any workplace change we can only represent HSU members. Encourage your workmates to join online at [www.hsu.asn.au/join](http://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