

Workplace change at Bankstown Hospital creates chaos

Dear Member,

Union members at Bankstown Hospital were thrown into disarray this week as last-minute changes to the operation of cleaning services were implemented earlier than notified. The HSU, with support of key representatives, called urgent meetings with members to discuss the changes and the impact these would have on affected workers.

The HSU has written to your employer, notifying them the matter is in dispute until additional information is provided. We understand members' frustration and have put a halt to the proposed changes until we gain an understanding of where the problems lie.

Members are citing existing workload issues but are unable to resolve these without being given proper duty statements, outlining the duties they need to complete on a daily basis, in order of importance and priority. The HSU has officially requested these from the employer in the dispute notification sent today.

However, any trial should have these included to provide employees with the foundation to provide feedback on changes. It is common for employers to suggest trials as a way to implement change, but it is equally common for these to quickly become the status quo. Once implemented, it makes it harder to undo the changes being made.

HSU members do acknowledge some of the proposed changes are positive and welcome these. But with the underlying gaps in rostering still unresolved, it is understandable they are reluctant to add new changes or ways of working.

It is disappointing to see misinformation being shared, including members being informed the union has agreed to the changes proposed. This is not the case and we encourage union members to speak to their workplace representatives before taking on board comments such as this. Misinformation is a tool that divides groups of workers, making it easier to impose change in chaotic circumstances.

As always, our strength lies in numbers, so this is the time to encourage your workmates to join. New members can join online at www.hsu.asn.au/join or phone 1300 478 679.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD