

Future of Kurri Kurri Hospital safe, for the moment

Dear Member,

The HSU has recently been informed of an anonymous letter and concerning rumours regarding the future of Kurri Kurri Hospital alleging that the ED would permanently close on December 31st 2019 and the hospital would close on the opening of the new Maitland Hospital.

Early this morning the HSU was provided a copy of a flyer released by HNELHD management denying these rumours. This correspondence is provided for your reference.

The HSU would like to thank members for bringing these concerns to our attention.

Considering the correspondence attached, HSU staff will be on site on Friday 8 November to answer any questions members might have.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



NEWSFLASH

Lower Hunter Sector

Number: [NF0136]

For Your Information

The Kurri Kurri Hospital Emergency Department will not close on 31 December 2019, as has been claimed in recent anonymous letters and social media posts. I want to reassure the community that they can continue to attend the department for emergency care as usual.

We are aware that this incorrect information has caused alarm amongst our staff and in the community. Local management has been supporting staff individually, and we held a staff meeting onsite on Wednesday 6 November to address their concerns and misinformation.

The Kurri Kurri Hospital Medical Ward is currently staffed for 6.0 Nursing Hours Per Patient Day (NHPPD), and is rostered in accordance with the Public Health System Nurses' and Midwives' (State) award. This change was communicated to staff recently, and came into effect on Monday 27 October.

The District is actively recruiting to nursing positions at Kurri Kurri, including creating eligibility lists to allow us to bring more staff in when needed. We will also begin recruiting to the currently-vacant medical position in the rehabilitation unit soon.

Inpatient wards often have seasonal downturns of some beds after winter. This is common practice and happens every year in many facilities across the District, not only at Kurri Kurri. This allows us to be flexible, to best meet the activity at the time. The hospital and ward can flex up and flex down beds as required to meet increasing or decreasing demand.

As with all our facilities, the District continuously monitors activity and staffing numbers at Kurri Kurri Hospital to ensure the safe delivery of patient care. If activity increases and we need to open more beds, additional nursing staff will be rostered on if required.

There will be no loss of staff or positions from Kurri Kurri. With the development of the new Maitland Hospital, the District has an opportunity to look at how we deliver health services in the Lower Hunter. This process is ongoing and there have been no decisions made about future delivery of services in the area. We are committed to consulting with our staff and other key stakeholders throughout this process.

If you have any questions about this, please contact my office.

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General Manager Lower Hunter Sector

6th November, 2019