

Southern NSW LHD Restructures Update

Dear Member,

Before Christmas, the HSU was in discussion with the LHD about setting dates for HSU working parties to be convened as part of the consultation process. In emails sent on 18 December and 24 December last year, the HSU proposed that the working parties meet in the week beginning Monday 13 January and asked for the LHD to assist with making arrangements.

On 8 January, the LHD emailed to the HSU and said:

1. That they wanted to the meetings to proceed but, because of the state of emergency caused by the bushfires, meetings may need to be convened via teleconference instead of face to face; and
2. That the LHD “would be happy to receive any feedback, proposals or suggestions up until the 31 January 2020”.

The HSU responded to that email and said:

1. Due to the state of emergency facing the LHD, and the fact that a number of our members have been dealing with the effects of the bushfire crisis over the Christmas and New Year period, it is appropriate that our members be given some time for their working and personal lives to return to normal before they are asked to convene working parties;
2. That the HSU proposes that HSU working party meetings be convened in the week beginning 27 January 2020. This will allow our members a reasonable opportunity to prepare for and attend meetings, while at the same time avoiding any unreasonable delay; and
3. That it is not realistic to expect that consultation can be completed by 31 January in circumstances where the LHD has not released updated structure documents or responded meaningfully to the questions and feedback already given by our members (particularly when part of that feedback has been pointing out errors in the LHD’s documentation that have not been corrected).

We are now waiting for a response from the LHD.

A copy of the email correspondence referred to above is provided with this newsletter.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

From: [Brendan Edghill](#)
To: [Virginia Cater](#)
Cc: [Josh Howarth](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SNSWLHD restructure consultation
Date: Tuesday, 14 January 2020 12:42:00 PM
Attachments: [image008.gif](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.jpg](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.jpg](#)
[image018.jpg](#)

Dear Virginia

Thank you for your email.

Given the current state of emergency in Southern NSW LHD, it is not appropriate or possible for meetings to be convened this week. As referenced in your email, a number of our members have been dealing with the effects of the bushfire crisis over the Christmas and New Year period. In these circumstances, it is appropriate that our members be given some time for their working and personal lives to return to normal before they are asked to convene working parties to consider the information that has been released by the LHD. I also note that our members have been expecting the opportunity to participate in face to face meetings when convening these working parties. Our members should not be denied that opportunity.

For those reasons, we propose that HSU working party meetings be convened in the week beginning 27 January 2020. This will allow our members a reasonable opportunity to prepare for and attend meetings, while at the same time avoiding any unreasonable delay.

I note your advice that the LHD “would be happy to receive any feedback, proposals or suggestions up until the 31 January 2020”. It is unclear why the LHD seeks to enforce the arbitrary deadline of 31 January. It is not realistic to expect that consultation can be completed by 31 January in circumstances where the LHD has not released updated structure documents or responded meaningfully to the questions and feedback already given by our members (particularly when part of that feedback has been pointing out errors in the LHD’s documentation that have not been corrected).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter.

Regards

Brendan

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I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which I live and work as the First People of this country, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and future.

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From: Virginia Cater <Virginia.Cater@health.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2020 8:11 AM

To: Brendan Edghill <brendan.edghill@hsu.asn.au>

Cc: Josh Howarth <josh.howarth@hsu.asn.au>; [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: SNSWLHD restructure consultation

Dear Brendan,

Thank you for your email. I have been asked to respond to you on behalf of Jude Constable, Acting Chief Executive, SNSWLHD.

Given that the LHD is in a state of emergency it is possible some members will not be able to travel safely to participate in face to face meetings. With this in mind the LHD supports the meetings being convened by teleconference, as appropriate.

If the dates and times of the meetings can be confirmed, we will be happy to set up teleconference lines if the HSU require this.

The LHD is conscious that our staff require certainty that the restructure is progressing to its final stages, more so now with the current state of emergency across the LHD. Staff are looking for and requiring assurance in respect to their personal circumstances as well as the restructure. In order that this may be achieved I reaffirm the advice of the Acting Chief Executive on 19 December 2019 that we would be happy to receive any feedback, proposals or suggestions up until the 31 January 2020.

Regards,

Virginia Cater