

HNELHD: Greater Newcastle Community & Aged Care Services Update

Dear Member,

Following the recent announcement of a restructure of Community and Aged Care Services, Greater Newcastle Sector, the HSU wrote to HNELHD management to raise concerns on behalf of members.

Management has provided the following advice (in italics) in response to the two main concerns raised:

- **What process will be put in place for the effective management of teams to ensure issues are not lost or actioned due to the large number of reports?**

The proposed positions and reporting lines are consistent with both the award and equivalent positions across NSW Health. For the proposed Service Manager Community Services, there will be an increase of two frontline manager reports and the remaining new reports will be practice support staff. There will be no changes to frontline services and staff will be able to escalate issues to their frontline manager. In line with the "Excellence" framework implemented within HNELHD, managers will continue to have regular access to the Service Manager for the purposes of service improvement, accountability, support and development. The Service Manager will also regularly 'round' with services and staff directly.

- **We want a commitment in writing not to privatise Community and Aged Care Services.**

The proposed realignment changes will not affect the delivery of frontline services for our patients and clients, and no frontline positions will be affected.

As you are aware, proposed changes to any NSW Health service includes consultation with staff and the relevant unions or associations in line with NSW Health Policy Directives and the applicable industrial awards.

As you can see, privatisation has not been confirmed, but neither are management ruling it out in the future. The HSU will remain committed to fight the privatisation of public health services side by side with members. If you have any concerns or other information, please contact your local HSU Organiser.

Your best defence against workplace change and exploitation is to be a member of your Union. If you haven't joined yet, right now is the best time. Join online at www.hsu.asn.au/join or by calling your Union on 1300 478 679.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD