

## Westmead Hospital: Maintenance 9-day fortnight update

Dear Member,

Earlier last month, Westmead Management made the decision to withdraw their agreement for a 9-day fortnight rostering agreement. They claimed in doing so, it would allow them to provide coverage of service.

However, we believe the real reason for this change is the 66% reduction in employed Trade and Maintenance staff over the years and the increasing reliance on contracting or outsourcing this work.

Given the known financial difficulties facing Westmead Hospital and Western Sydney LHD, the question must be asked if it would be a better use of precious finances to provide in-house Maintenance and Trade services rather than pay for external contractors.

This is another Department at Westmead which has suffered a gradual reduction of staff despite workloads not decreasing. In fact, workloads have increased, due to the age of the buildings to be maintained.

The HSU met with affected members late last week (30<sup>th</sup> January) and provided the following advice:

1. Members should not commence work early or stay late unless they are directed to and paid at the appropriate overtime rates.
2. Members should take all of your Award-entitled breaks. You are entitled to 1x 20 morning or afternoon tea break and 1x lunch break between 30-60 minutes.
3. At their rostered shift end time, members should leave any unfinished or uncompleted and hand it over to the relevant supervisor or manager.
4. If requested to stay late, members should not refuse. However, respectfully state 'unless I'm being directed and paid overtime, I'm unable to stay back'.
5. If you believe there are special circumstances which require a flexible working or rostering arrangement, you should submit a request through your manager.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact your Organiser Brendan Roberts via email [brendan.roberts@hsu.asn.au](mailto:brendan.roberts@hsu.asn.au) or mobile 0425 181 361.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD