The 'new' Fairview

Dear Member,

Many HSU members across NSW are now dealing with the direct impact underfunding is having on the Aged Care sector, particularly in remote and regional areas. Increasingly, standalone and smaller providers are struggling and with billions cut out of Aged Care, providers are looking to the big players to take over.

This is the story at Fairview which, as members are aware, has now been purchased by Whiddon Group.

What does this mean for your wages and conditions?

Normally, staff continue to be covered by their current agreement until it ends and is replaced with a new collective agreement. Whiddon Group have wasted no time in changing your conditions of employment over to the Whiddon Group Agreement.

In a letter dated 16th January (at this link) Whiddon Group confirmed any base wages that are currently higher than the Whiddon Group Agreement will be maintained until the other rates catch up, leaving nobody worse off.

In a phone call with local management, it has been confirmed new contracts are being drawn up and offered. If you have any concerns about these, members are encouraged to get advice from the HSU Member Services Division on 1300 478 679 before signing.

Occasionally, takeovers like this are followed by a restructure. To be clear, the Health Services Union has not received any notification of a restructure. Should the Whiddon Group choose to do so, management is required to consult with staff and their representatives.

It's times like this that it pays to be a union member. Only members will be given industrial support in any meetings. And only union members will have access to resources about your rights throughout periods of workplace change.

Your HSU Organiser Kirk Rostock will be on site Tuesday 19th February between 9am and 3pm. Should you wish to contact Kirk prior to this visit you can email him on kirk.rostock@hsu.asn.au.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD