

31 July 2024

Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union, NSW/ACT/QLD
E: info@hsu.asn.au
E: michael.kearns@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Adult Mental Health Restructure, Northern NSW Local Health District

Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) is planning to restructure Adult Mental Health Services within the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Directorate.

This proposed restructure has a specific focus on Tier 3 of the adult Mental Health Service (AMHS). Moving away from the current AMHS Service groups of Tweed-Byron and Richmond-Clarence which relates to a historical district structure and realigning AMHS along functional lines across the district.

The proposed restructure will see the creation of a district wide *Adult Mental Health Inpatient Service*, and a district wide *Community Mental Health Service*. These service groups coming under the operational management of a Director of Nursing - Adult Inpatient Services, and a Community Mental Health Service Manager respectively.

One of the many benefits of the proposed restructure will be service consistency and collaboration which will can be supported and cultivated under a single point of accountability.

Please find attached the Adult Mental Health Structure Consultation Paper for your review and distribution to your members.

Please be advised the Tier 3 staff affected by the proposed restructure have been formally notified. A meeting was also held with the Tier 4 Operational Managers earlier today due to the proposed change to their current operational line manager. An email is being distributed to all Mental Health Staff today, inclusive of a copy of the attached consultation paper.

As meeting to further present and discuss the proposed restructure and consultation document, has been scheduled for:

7 August 2024, 2p, online (Teams meeting).

A Microsoft Teams link will be available, and the Health Services Union (HSU) is invited to attend this meeting. A direct invitation will be forwarded to HSU Organiser Public Health Regional, Michael Kearns.

As identified in the consultation paper, I invite any comments, queries or feedback on the proposed restructure by 16 August 2024, via email to: deidre.robinson@health.nsw.gov.au.

I look forward to meeting with the HSU to discuss the proposed restructure further and working with the union and staff within Adult Mental Health Services to implement the proposed change to support our staff, service and the Northern NSW community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deidre Robinson
Director, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs