



Mr Gerard Hayes
General Secretary
Health Services Union NSW/ACT/QLD
Locked Bag 3, Australia Square
Sydney NSW 1215

13 September 2024

secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

RE: Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD) Integrated Care, Allied Health and Community Service (ICAHCS) Directorate - Interim Reporting Lines – Child and Family Counselling Team, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour

I write to you regarding the need to review reporting lines in the Child and Family Counselling Team as part of the wider Mid North Coast Local Health District Community Services Reform (CSR).

Background

The Child Adolescent and Family Team (CAFT) have teams in the Port Macquarie and Hastings Macleay Network and Coffs Harbour Clinical Network. These teams consist of a mix of nursing and allied health positions that provide health services to families and children across the LHD.

The CAFT service was previously under the management of the Clinical Networks reporting up to the Network Coordinators/General Managers of the Base Hospitals until the Community Services Reform took effect from July 2023.

As part of the CSR a new unit was established, Prevention and Response to Violence and Abuse Network (PARVAN). When PARVAN was established on 19 February 2024, the CAFT service saw some key functions and services transition across to PARVAN.

Current Situation

Due to the CSR process and a dispute raised by the NSW Nurses and Midwifery Association relating to the establishment of the Senior District Manager Community Services (HSM5), the District was not able to recruit to this position and subsequently interim reporting lines were established.

Whilst we are working collaboratively with the NSWNMA to resolve this dispute, the position remains unfilled.

Due to a combination of unplanned leave, vacancies, limited backfill options and the impacts associated with the delay in the recruitment of the Senior District Manager, Community Services (HSM5) the LHD has needed to make some interim reporting lines which has been communicated to the union.

As part of this process it has been raised by staff members that the Child and Family Counselling Team that currently sits in the Child, Adolescent and Family Team in the Integrated Care, Allied Health and Community Services Directorates core business and models of care have potentially similar service characteristics of the

mental health program delivered by the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) that currently sits under the Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drugs Directorate.

As such we would like to commence a period of consultation with the staff and associated stakeholders on whether this service would be best positioned to sit in the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Directorate.

I would like to extend the invitation to the union to make a time to meet at a mutually agreeable time to discuss this further and once details are confirmed on the meeting dates and times with the staff are known these will be made available to the union should you wish to attend.

Should you have any questions in relation to this correspondence, please contact my office on MNCLHD-AHIC@health.nsw.gov.au or 02 6589 2468.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jill Wong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jill Wong
Director, Integrated Care, Allied Health & Community Services
Mid North Coast Local Health District