

1 July 2024

Mr Michael Kearns  
Organiser, Public Health Division  
Health Services Union  
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Mr Kearns,

**Integrated Health & Security Assistant Model, Kurrajong Mental Health Inpatient Unit, Tweed Valley Hospital.**

I write further to discussions at the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs (MHAOD) Staff Consultative Committee on date, regarding Health & Security Assistant coverage for Kurrajong Mental Health Inpatient Unit at Tweed Valley Hospital.

Health & Security Assistant (HSA) coverage for Kurrajong Mental Health Inpatient Unit is currently supported and supplied by via the Hospital Security Services, specifically Corporate Services Tweed Valley Hospital.

The transition from The Tweed Hospital to the new Tweed Valley Hospital has resulted in an enhancement to HSA staffing. As such, Mental Health Services is seeking to implement an integrated HSA model that allows the HSAs to be operationally managed by Mental Health Services, specifically the Kurrajong Mental Health Inpatient Unit Manager. This aligning with the HSA model recently supported in Mental Health Services within the Lismore campus.

The Kurrajong HSAs will continue to hold a professional connection to the Tweed Valley Hospital Health & Security Services, via the Corporate Services Manager. The Tweed Valley Hospital Health & Security Services will continue to support the monitoring of licencing requirements and provide short-term unexpected leave relief for the unit.

The proposed benefits of this change are:

- Finding appropriate applicants with experience, training and preparedness to work within a Mental Health setting;
- HSAs provided with further supports/training to respond safely and effectively to aggressive or disruptive behaviours within the unit as part of the multi-disciplinary care team;
- The capacity to establish rapport with patients of the inpatient unit and be integrated as part of the multi-disciplinary care team;
- Capacity to undertake duties within the scope of the classification and to participate in supporting diversional activities.

To support consultation with the Health Services Union (HSU) regarding the proposed integrated HAS model, please find attached a summary of the proposed model for your review.

To support the timely progression of vacancies under this proposed HSA model, your response to the proposed model is requested by close of business Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

In addition, should you have any questions regarding this correspondence or the proposed model please reach out to me directly on [Kerri.Lawrence@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kerri.Lawrence@health.nsw.gov.au) or via phone on 07 66773864.

I look forward to supporting an improved and integrated Health & Security Assistant service for the Kurrajong Mental Health Inpatient Unit.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerri Lawrence".

**Kerri Lawrence**

Service Manager, Tweed Byron Mental Health Services