

21 June 2023

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union

By email: [secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)  
[info@hsu.asn.au](mailto:info@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Mr Hayes

**Re: Wallsend Aged Care Facility Proposed Changes**

I write in relation to a proposed change to consolidate the Henry Unit and Firkin Units within Wallsend Aged Care Facility.

Wallsend Aged Care Facility is currently operating with a 70% reduced bed occupancy. In addition, the facility is currently experiencing workforce challenges in alignment with many other health services and residential aged care facilities, which has the potential to impact on both staff and resident safety.

After careful consideration Hunter New England Local Health District (The District) has identified to ensure resident safety and care provision is maintained, consolidation of the residents to one unit is necessary. The consolidation of the current residents can be accommodated safely on one unit (Henry) with minimal impact to staff and residents.

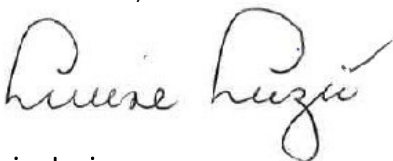
It is proposed that all staff currently working on Firkin Unit will relocate to Henry Unit on Wednesday, 28 June 2023. Hunter New England Local Health District staff will continue to report to the Nurse Unit Manager with all other employment conditions remaining unchanged.

Meetings were held today, Wednesday, 21 June 2023 to advise staff of these changes. Staff are positive and welcome these changes.

With the consolidation of the Units, there will be a reduction in cleaning requirements within Wallsend Aged Care Facility. HealthShare Services have been advised of the consolidation to one unit and the amended cleaning requirements.

Should you have any concerns regarding the above or wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4924 6002 or email [louise.lazic@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louise.lazic@health.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Louise Lazic**  
General Manager  
Community and Aged Care Services – Greater Newcastle Sector

CC: Melissa Booth, Snr HR Consultant

Hunter New England Local Health District  
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