



ACT
Government

**Canberra Health
Services**

Mr Mark Jay
Health Services Union

Via email: mark.jay@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Jay

Consultation – Expand and consolidate the Acute Medical Unit Model of Care; and undergo a bed realignment in the Division of Medicine, Canberra Health Services

In accordance with the relevant consultations provisions of the relevant enterprise agreements in Canberra Health Services (CHS), where there are proposals by the ACT Public Service to introduce change in work practice or work organisation within a Directorate the head of service will consult with the affected employees and relevant unions.

What is the proposed change?

- The current pilot 12-bedded Acute Medical Unit (AMU) is in place, and we are proposing to expand and consolidate to a 24-bedded unit in line with the recommendations of an external data review. The current proposal is for Ward 6A to hold the AMU and for this to take place mid-February 2023.
- The AMU will be established on one of our existing wards, based on the external review projection of patient case mix (volume) after the AMU is implemented. The bed base for the Division of Medicine will stay the same, but the number of beds allocated to each specialty will change in line with patient admissions to the AMU – so a bed base realignment will be required.
- There are no workforce reductions proposed; and there will be some new permanent workforce additions required to open the 24-bedded AMU due to the model of care requiring a higher workforce to patient ratio (when compared to other inpatient units).

What are the benefits?

Patients, staff and the broader community will benefit from this proposed change:-

- Improve emergency and planned access to medical services for patients for both the Emergency Department and for ward access
- Improve care pathways and care excellence with a modernised approach
- Reduce the number of patients on non-home wards - this frees up clinician time to care due less wards to cover across the hospital for each team
- Allows clinicians to choose work units that match their expertise and offers them exciting new models of care.

Next steps?

To allow staff and unions a genuine opportunity to contribute to and influence the decision-making process prior to any changes being formalised, the consultation period for the proposed organisational structure will commence on Monday 19 December 2022 and close on Friday 13 January 2023 (4 weeks). This longer consultation period will accommodate the low activity period over the public holidays.

Furthermore, meetings with affected staff will be held to discuss the proposed changes and allow staff to ask any questions and contribute further to the decision-making process. These sessions will be held on the week beginning 19 December 2022, week beginning 2 January and the week beginning 9 January 2023. We will also be taking consultation feedback and questions through email correspondence.

If you have any further questions regarding the proposed restructure, please contact CHSDOM@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Docherty
Executive Director
Division of Medicine and Emergency
Canberra Health Services

19 December 2022

Att: Consultation Paper (AMU & Bed Realignment)