

Mr Gerard Hayes  
General Secretary  
Health Services Union  
Locked Bag 3  
AUSTRALIA SQUARE, NSW, 1214

CM9 Ref: HD24/24831

11 July 2024

By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

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**Re: Patient Service and Planning – Robotic Scrubber Pilot**

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Dear Mr Hayes,

I am writing to you to advise that the pilot involving trialling a robotic floor scrubber to automatically clean large expanse areas within the New Maitland Hospital facility was successful in meeting the objectives in our initial letter, and we are keen to progress this by implementing the unit to John Hunter Hospital on an ongoing basis, on 27 July 2024.

Within this change of facility, it is proposed that our current process of using a manned floor scrubber will enable us to redirect the labour into more priority-based tasks throughout the facility and assist other cleaning staff afterhours.

It is proposed that the move will enable us to determine the following in a larger facility:

- Reduce manual handling
- Provide a process that enables redirection of labour into areas that require support afterhours.
- Reduce damage to the facility from current manual driven machinery.
- To assist in reconfiguring workflows to accommodate tasks to be prioritised and provide us flexibility to redirect labour due to recruitment and attraction issues.

We will be engaging HealthShare staff and relevant Health Service Union representatives. I have initially reached out to our local organiser Matthew Ramsay for his involvement in the consultation process.

Should you require and further information in relation to this initiative, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Sincerely,



**Rick Forrest**  
General Manager – Patient Services Hunter & Central Coast