

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
Locked Bag 3
Australia Square
NSW 1215

By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Implementation of Personal Duress Devices – SESLHD Mental Health Service

Dear Mr Hayes

I am writing to you to bring to your attention a critical initiative to enhance the safety of our clinicians who conduct home visits within the community. These visits are essential for providing comprehensive care to our patients, however they also expose our staff to potential risks and hazards.

To address this, SESLHD Mental Health Service will implement the use of personal duress devices. These devices, also known as personal alarms, can be carried by staff members, and activated in case of an emergency to alert the appropriate authorities or colleagues. The key benefits of implementing these devices include enhanced safety, improved response times, increased peace of mind and compliance with health and safety regulations.

A working group was established to identify two cost-effective, compatible, and reliable devices to be trialed across the district. A four-week trial was conducted across two community teams, one at St. George Mental Health Service and the other within Eastern Suburbs Mental Health Service. Following feedback from the trial period, the SimplyUnified Duress Falcon was identified as the preferred device for implementation across all SESLHD community mental health teams.

We believe that the introduction of personal duress devices will be a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and well-being of our dedicated clinicians. We kindly request the union's support in advocating for this important initiative.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Jaden Dowd, Senior Executive Officer, SESLHD Mental Health Service at jaden.dowd@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hay
General Manager
SESLHD Mental Health Service
24 June 2024