

20 January 2023

Mr Gerard Hayes
Health Services Union
L2/109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 1215

Attention: Tracey Gaddelin - Organiser

Via email: Tracey.Gaddelin@hsu.asn.au and secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Allied Health Staffing Enhancements – The Maitland Hospital

I am writing to advise you that the Lower Hunter Sector has been successful in receiving the following additional Allied Health Staffing enhancements from the Ministry of Health for the following services:

1. Pharmacy

The Pharmacy Service has received an enhancement of 2.9FTE permanent staff for the Maitland Hospital which will be allocated as follows:

The allocation of 1.9FTE has been directed between surgical, maternity/paediatrics and oncology services at Maitland Hospital to assist with current workloads.

The allocation of 1.0FTE has been directed to the Emergency Department and will facilitate the operation of a Saturday service from 21 January 2023. These changes have been discussed with staff. The 1.0 FTE has been recruited as a dedicated Tuesday to Saturday shift work position and when required, relief cover on Saturdays will be provided by existing staff who have indicated a willingness to work the Saturday shift.

Workloads and FTE distribution will be monitored by the Pharmacy Department to address any concerns that may be raised.

2. Physiotherapy

An enhancement of 1.4FTE for Physiotherapy services has been allocated to the Emergency Department. This increase has allowed the service to be provided 7 days per week. Two clinicians have been recruited to this additional FTE and will work a shared roster to cover the weekends.

In addition to this enhancement, a service delivery decision was made to reallocate a 0.42FTE position from Dungog Community Hospital to Maitland Hospital when it became vacant. The clinical demand for this service at Dungog was minimal. Dungog is now provided with an outreach service from Maitland Hospital, comparable to all other disciplines, and this is meeting the clinical demand. The hours for this Level 3 position are:

- 6 hours Friday
- 4 hours Saturday. This shift had previously been covered by clinicians across LHS doing this on a roster basis.

- 4 hours Sunday – there had previously been no cover on a Sunday
- The recruitment specifically was to cover the weekend position

3. Speech Pathology

An enhancement of 0.6FTE for Speech Pathology has been allocated to the Critical Care Service (ED and ICU) which has enabled recruitment of a Speech Pathologist who will work Thursday – Saturday.

If you require any further details regarding these enhancement to Allied Health Services, we are happy to arrange a meeting with the HSU to discuss this in further detail.

If you require any additional information please contact Angela Towns, Director Allied Health, Community & Integrated Care on (02) 4087 2035 or Anna Dampney, HR Consultant, GMHS on (02) 4985 3467.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Osborne
A/General Manager
Lower Hunter Sector