



Private & Confidential

25 September 2024

Mr Gerard Hayes
NSW Secretary
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Sent via email: info@hsu.asn.au; secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

Re: Proposed changes to Manning Mental Health Adult Community Team, Hunter New England Local Health District

I write to the Health Services Union (HSU) to advise and provide notice of consultation in relation to the proposed alignment of the existing clinical team within the Adult Community Mental Health Team (ACMHT), Manning Mental Health Service, Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD).

By way of background, in 2022 the Manning Mental Health Service underwent an external review with respect to community services and care coordination. The review identified that the care coordination component of the adult model of care was being spread ineffectively across the currently known Extended Hours Team (with Emergency Department assessment responsibilities) and the Continuing Care Team (CCT).

This has created a level of tension between the Manning Base Hospital (MBH) Emergency Department (ED) and the Extended Hours Team (EHT) with respect to responsiveness to Emergency Department presentations.

The proposed changes realign the focus of care coordination into distinct service teams, which in turn allows for greater focus of care for consumers as they progress through the phases of care. This will also provide clarity both within the team around roles and responsibilities and that of the MBH ED.

Moving forward, it is proposed that these teams would be known as Intake, Acute Care (ACT) and Continuing Care (CCT). This differentiation and naming convention is in step with other Mental Health services.

However, to achieve this the Acute Care Team (formerly known as the Extended Hours Team) would move from a combined care coordinator service to a dedicated acute care service.

Jonathan Holt

General Manager
Hunter New England Mental Health
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Members have voiced their concerns regarding the current impacts in being able to perform a mixed role that works across both acute and continuing care (care coordination).

To assist, I attach the organisation chart, which essentially remains unchanged, with no changes to overall FTE. (**Attachment 1**)

It is acknowledged that the proposed changes, as an outcome of redistribution of work tasks within each specific care stream, will result in small modifications to some of the existing position descriptions.

We will work closely with the staff affected as part of the change consultation process.

We are committed to working with all staff and keeping them informed during the consultation process. I welcome any feedback or comments from the **HSU by COB, Wednesday, 9 October 2024.**

Thank you for your members ongoing commitment to Mental Health Services and the District in caring for our clients.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me via email Jonathan.Holt@health.nsw.gov.au or on 4033 5169.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Holt
General Manager
HNE Mental Health Services
HNE Local Health District

Enc.

CC: Rebecca North, Operations Manager Mental Health Services
Mark Andrei, Snr HR Business Partner Mental Health Services

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