

12 December 2024

Ref: MDOC24/28247

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW
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Temporary services changes at MLHD facilities for holiday periods

Dear Mr Hayes

We take this opportunity to advise you of the changes to Emergency Department (ED) opening hours in five health services in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. The changes to opening hours are being implemented to ensure patients receive safe care during the summer holiday period and to enable our staff to take annual leave.

Healthcare services in rural and regional areas, across Australia, are currently facing ongoing challenges in key health worker recruitment and despite extensive recruitment efforts, the Local Health District has vacancies for nurses with ED skills in some rural hospitals.

Given these ongoing challenges, the following facilities have had changes to the Emergency Department operating hours as indicated below:

- **Batlow-Adelong Multipurpose Service (MPS):** Emergency department will be open between 8am-6pm. Patients requiring ED treatment between the hours of 6pm- 8am should present to Tumut Hospital or call 000 for an ambulance.
- **Berrigan Multipurpose Service:** Emergency department will be open between 8am-6pm. Patients requiring ED treatment between the hours of 6pm-8am should present to should present to Finley Hospital or call 000 for an ambulance.
- **Coolamon-Ganmain Multipurpose Service:** Emergency department will be open between 8am-6pm. Patients requiring ED treatment between the hours of 6pm- 8am should present to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital or call 000 for an ambulance.
- **Murrumburrah-Harden Health Service:** Emergency department will be open between 8am-6pm. Patients requiring ED treatment between the hours of 6pm-8am should present to Young Hospital or call 000 for an ambulance.

- **Urana Multipurpose Service:** Emergency department will be open between 8am-6pm. Patients requiring ED treatment between the hours of 6pm- 8am should present to should present to Lockhart MPS or call 000 for an ambulance.

The five impacted health service EDs are all located within 35 minutes or less of a hospital with a 24-hour operating Emergency Department. There will be no change to the operational hours of the aged care services in these MPS facilities.

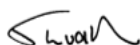
The modified hours will support our dedicated staff to take leave during the holiday period and ensure the continuation of safe, high-quality healthcare for all patients.

MLHD recognises and is deeply thankful for the outstanding commitment and tireless efforts of our staff.

MLHD will continue active recruitment efforts, including offering the increased incentive package of up to \$20,000 for health workers relocating and commencing work at rural and remote locations.

Should you require more information on these temporary service changes, please contact Dr Rebecca Leon, Director People and Culture, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, at rebecca.leon@health.nsw.gov.au or on 0477 744 774.

Yours sincerely



Jill Ludford
Chief Executive
Murrumbidgee Local Health District